AMMAN (AFP) — Israeli-Jordanian talks on trade and banking in the occupied terrinories will not change relations between Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a Jordanian spokerman said Wednesday. Marwan Muasher, spokerman for the Jordanian delegation to the talks, said they "will not affect coordination" between Jordan and the PLO. He told a press conference that "a tripartine meeting amongst the three sides is eventually inevitable." He said the two sides would discuss the issue of Jordanian banks in the West Bank and Gaza as well as "made hetween Amman and the autonomous areas at talks in a trade between Amman and the autonomous areas at talks in a hotel on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. "Jordan is keen on promoting trade with the West Bank through expanding the list of goods eligible to go into the territories' market," added Dr.



King receives injured soldier

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received at Amman Civil Airport Lieutenant Met'el@Dabbobi of the Special Forces serving with international peacekeeping forces in Croatia. Lt. Met'eb was accompanied by Prince Abdullah. commander of the Special Forces. Lt. Dabobi was injured by a landmine when he was caught in a mine field in the former Yugoslav republic. He was bospitalised in Zagreb. He was contacted over the phone on June 15 by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan only one day after he was admitted to the American hospital in the Croatian capital. He was also called by American hospital in the Croatian capital. He was also called by Prince Abdullah at hospital. Lt. Dabobi was a commander of a Special Forces unit in Croatia.

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AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 11-12, 1994, RABI' ALAWAL 2-3, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan marks 42nd anniversary of King's accession to The Throne

King entrusts Crown Prince with forming Royal Commission to serve Jordan's new era untiring efforts to serve them

Multi-objective group should seek creation of economic and investment atmosphere, HM says Work should cover 'private and public sectors, based on clear foundations that guarantee rights of the deserving'

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that Jordan was entering a new phase of its modern history, and the transition called for a Royal Commiss 2... to be headed by His Roy. Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to prepare the Kingdom for a future based on social justice, democracy, efficiency wi achievement. In a lette a-idressed to the Crown Privace, corrusting him with forming and heading the commission, ... King said members of t: new group

ing the nation's standing based on a clear foundation of justice, inscalous, integrity and human dignity. In the letter, King Hussein asked Prince Hassan to ensare that those "who serve with honesty and integrity and those who work tireless-

should t arm with a his-

tory of personal integrity and work tov ards further enhanc-

be in the panel. There should be absolutely no room for leniency with those individuals or entities who abuse public funds and there should certainly be no



room for the misuse of public office for personal gain," be

King Hussein reflected on Jordan's coming era, pointing out what should be done to pave the way for Jordan to enter the modern age, "according to sound and sciFollowing is the text of the King's message to Prince

Prayers and Peace on the Faithful Arab Hashemite

Your Royal Highness, my

"My hope is that 1994 can

The Crown Prince said Jor-

support to the Palestinian

constant of the Jordanian

Prince Hassan explained that Jordan's responsibilities

for the Arab areas occupied

by Israel in 1967 was to yield

sovereignty over them to an

of paper that says the U.S. is against a Palestinian state" as

There is no ceiling placed on progression of Palestinian

rights. Let's see what evolves

within a civilised and political

manner in the next two

years," Prince Hassan said.

be very difficult to envisage

peace without resolving the

religious issue in Jerusalem in

light of the importance of the

Holy City to Muslims, Christ-

He said followers of the

three religions have a reli-

(Continued on page 7)

gious responsibility in the

ians and Jews.

Prince Hassan said it will

the question claimed.

Hassan said.

In the Name of God, the dearest, most beloved and prother and Cr Prince, El Hassan, It is indeed a pleasure to

Omani leader hails

write to you as you join your dear Jordanian brethren in tirelessly paving the way for

our beloved Jordan to enter a new phase, in order to consolidate the noble goals and solid constitutional foundations established by our late Grandfather, founder of modern Jordan, King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein. Those foundations were intended to create strong constitutional pillars to support a Jordan built on the principles of jus-

tice, freedom, integrity and human dignity. In this regard I would like to reiterate my utmost confidence in you, and my admiration for your releatless efforts in seeking glory and prosperity for our beloved country. Your active participation with Jordanians from all walks of life in facing the challenge of constructing the right social, political, intellectual and economic fabric of our lives, based on knowledge and awareness. has brought the prospects of progress closer to our reach. every right to become players

(Continued on page 7)

on the wider human stage as

Jordanians remember King's

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Thursday celebrates the 42nd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Hashemite Throne.

On Aug. 11, 1952, the then 17-year-old prince became the King of Jordan, pursuing the march of the Great Arab Revolt which his late great grandfather Sharif Hussein Ben Ali had launched against foreign domination.

In celebrating the anniversary Jordanians recall the King's untiring efforts in developing Jordan into a model democratic state and his sincere and dedicated efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, defend Arab causes and liberate the Arab will and resolution from foreign hegemony.

The King's work to move Jordan back into the foreground of regional and international momentum towards the 21st century has been recognised.

The fruits of that labour will be reaped as the people of the region feel the benefits of a secure environment with hope for economic advance-

"The King has managed to return Jordan to the political map," Parliament Speaker Taher Masri told Reuters news agency on the eve of the

"But for this momentum to continue, many requirements have to be met," said Mr. Masri. "The fruits of peace have to make themselves felt quickly on Jordanian society in all aspects."

Nearly 70% of the members of the Lower House support the Washington Declaration signed by King Hus-sein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25.

Signs are that the coming peace will bring more investment, tourism and trade, developments that are a prerequisite to a stable, prospering



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday meets with leaders of Christian communities in Jordan (Petra photo)

Crown Prince expects agreements on key issues with Israel in early 1995

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday that major agreements on the common agenda for the peace talks between Jordan and Israel could be reached in 1995.

Describing 1994 as a threshold for peace in the region, Prince Hassan said: "I believe that major agreements in terms of the agenda can be in evidence... by early

The agreements will include shared maps and sur-teys that would detail the borders between the two countries and "Jordanian and Israeli sovereignty on land," Prince Hassan said during a meeting with representatives of the U.S.-based United Jewish Appeal (UJA) and the Jewish community in Boston.

The Crown Prince told over 100 leading Jewish businessmen that the Jordanian-Israeli achievements since the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25 had exceeded "expectations in terms of breaking down the psychological barriers" between the Jordanians and the Israelis.

Citing the opening ceremonies of the Acaba-Eilat crossing point on Monday, Prince Hassan said "outpouring of goodwill... was evident" in the human encounter between Jordanian and Israeli war veterans and the families of soldiers killed in

the Arab-Israeli wars. Prince Hassan stressed that peacemaking is not for the slite but for people who should feel its benefits in terms of improved living standards. He said peace should help climinate the disparity in the living conditions

of the people of the area.

Calling for a major vision for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley from Lake Tiberias in the north to the Red Sea in the south, Prince Hassan proposed that an eco-nomic summit for regional development which will be held in Morocco in September consider "a phased out implementation" of a multibillion development plan being worked out by Jorda-

nian and Israeli negotiators.

The economy of the region
"can be rehabilitated on the basis of pluralism and interdependence," Prince Hassan told the Jewish visitors, who arrived here Tuesday. He said efforts should be directed towards evolving an economic model which is

acceptable and liveable." Pointing to the lack of cooperation among the countries of the Middle East, Prince Hassan called for a joint lobby committee to make the world understand that "this region is a region only in name. It is feature-

"This is a region which has been a wilderness in terms of institution-building," Prince

Responding to a question on the Syrian-Israeli track of the negotiation, Prince Hassan said he hoped progress would be attained on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace talks in order to support the building of a comprehensive peace in the

"The idea of a comprehensive peace process that leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received a mes-sage from Sultan Qaboos of Oman expressing his congratulations and those of the people and government of Oman on the Washington shortfall that cannot be accepted," Prince Hassan Declaration.

The Sultan voiced his support for "steps taken in the ight of this declaration towards the achievement of a just and durable peace in the Middle East."

be the threshold year (in the peace process) and I do not limit that... to the Jordanians and the Palestinians," Prince "Your achievements of enjoying custody and care for the holy places in Jerusalem dan would continue to extend stands out as a clear proof of your keenness on clinging hard to Arab rights," said people, saying that helping the Palestinians had been a Sultan Qaboos in his mes-

sage.
The Omani foreign ministry also issued a similar statement, welcoming the peace accord signed by Israel and Jordan as a positive step forward, the first public declaration of support for the agreement by a Gulf Arab state.

Arab entity.

Responding to a question on where Jordan stood on the "The minister of state for foreign affairs, Yousef Ben creation of a Palestinian Alawi Bin Abdullah, constate, Prince Hassan said: There is a clear progression firmed that Oman supported the agreement because it is a from national haven to homeland and that progress may step forward to a comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue," the official lead at a given moment to statehood" for Palestinians. He said "there is no shred





Oman News Agency said.
It said the minister at the same time urged Israel to work for a breakthrough for peace with Syria and Leba-non. "Without it, peace in the Middle East will be set back and the region will be in a state of instability," the

It did not quote him directly but said he expressed satisfaction with the recent talks between Syria and the United States and urged Arab countries to show solidarity.

Safeguarding holy shrines is Washington Declaration honour for Jordan — King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday the task of safeguarding the holy shrines in Jerusalem was a source of honour for the Hashemites and for the Kingdom of Jor-

"We do not compete with anyone for Jerusalem and we do not seek to impose our will or rule over anyone, but we act out of pure inspiration to perform our duty," the King said in an address at a meeting with representatives of Christian communities in the Kingdom.

"We will remain a united family on a common march and we will fulfill our duty under all circumstances acting as brothers and sisters to serve faith and the nation," King Hussein said at the meeting, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Following are major ex-cerpts of the King's address: "Dear brothers, I welcome you in this home, the home of all Jordanians of various origins and members of the big Ĭordanian family.

"I deeply appreciate your efforts as representatives of your communities and for your review of Jordan's history beginning with the Omari pact and until the pre-

sent time. "I would like to reaffirm that all of us will remain a united family and our march will progress as we all fulfill our duty under all circumstances. We hope that this march will set a good example for all others in our region as we are determined to remain and live like brothers and sisters within the united

big family of Jordan.
"I pledge to continue to provide protection and care for the holy shrines as this is an honour for us the Hashemites and for this country and its people who have offered so many sacrifices throughout

"We will compete with no one over Jerusalem and we will not impose ourselves on to work, inspired by our

of God in order to serve national interests of all people including all the faithful descendants of Abraham.

"We want to see the holy places serving as a symbol in meaning and content and a meeting together in fearing and worshipping God.
"We have worked and will continue to strive to regain

Arab rights in Jerusalem for its people and its owners. "I am honoured as much as are all the Hashemites, to be one of you, working for you and with you to safeguard the trust and perform our duty as

best as we can and for all "I implore God to help us to arrive at our objectives, which harbour good for all and aim at cusuring the rights

of all people.
"This is a sacred unity which will remain safe from

(Continued on page 7)

On the Occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne



ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

its felicitations and most cordial wishes

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Sabri Farah & Family

Christopher sees progress in Mideast peace process

to the Middle East this week, Secretary of State Warren Christopher briefed the press on board his flight from Israel so Shannon on Aug. 9. Mr. Christopher cited progress howard three U.S. objectives.

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt on ways to improve the delivery of financial assistance to the Palestinians:

- Meetings with King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on efforts to move forward the implementation of the Washington Declaration signed by the two leaders a fortnight ago; and

 Discussions with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on accelerating the Syrian nego-tiating track.

The following is a transexipt of the secretary's ouhe-record briefing. Mr. Christopher: First, I

wanted to work with the Egyptians and see if we can ind ways and means to improve the delivery of the

tion and reconstruction of Gaza and Jericho. One of the outcomes of the meeting, of course, was that Arafat was there in Egypt. I had an opportunity to talk with him directly in the presence of Mubarak and it was quite a useful three-way meeting. One of the products of that will be signature today by Palestinians of the OPIC agreement with the United States, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation agreement, which will encourage several of our companies and firms that have been awaiting that signature before launching their own

A second outcome is that Arafat committed himself to me to meet with the World Bank people to try to work through problems with the World Bank; to make his way through procedures and red tape of the World Bank. They're meeting today to try to streamline and improve the procedures.

projects in Gaza and possibly

Finally, coming out of the trip and our extensive conversations both in Alexandria

phone, we have some new ideas for streamlining the process to enable the funds to be delivered on a more timely basis to the Palestinians. The backgrounder will give you more details on the subject. Let me say that we continue to feel a responsibility to ensure that Arafat and the Palestinians have a full opportunity to achieve prog-ress in building and rebuilding in the Gaza and Jericho areas. As I told the Chairman, his success is very important to the United States and the other nations who

toward the matter. The second objective I had for the trip was to try to move forward the implementation of the Washington Declaration. Clearly in those terms it was a remarkable day yesterday. The interaction between the Jordanians and Israelis that I am sure all of you

have been involved in all of

this process. Despite the frus-

trations, we want to help in

every way that we can and

that's been our attitude. I

must say I believe that's the

same attitude the Israelis and

other parties involved have

port that was really palpable. You could see it in the stands as we waited for and had border. You saw Jordanian and Israeli military men, who probably had never met each other, talking in a very animated way, discussing how they might work together in the future.

I think I have never seen King Hussein or the Prime Minister in a hetter or more er in a better or more relaxed mood than they were in the two days that I was out there. They both had sort of a sense of relief that they had done the right thing; the sense that they had made a historically important move. It's given them a new sense of confidence and reassurance to move ahead. I was really struck with a comment that King Hussein made at the beginning, I think, of the press conference when he said "I am more at ease with myself than at anytime since I

became King. In my prepared remarks resterday, I spoke of a longing on the part of both the Jordanians and the Israelis for peace and for rapproche-

think that captures the mood that I found in both of them. They see great prospects ahead. Certainly they will both move conservatively and cautiously, but nevertheless, there is a tremendous new opening which was re-flected in what they said andeven more so in the body language yesterday that you could visualise on the stage and that I saw up close as we took that usual trip on the King's yacht followed by and welcomed by the Israeli boats on the Ellat side and the Jordanian on the Aqaba side.

One of the other things that came out the meetings was the schedule for the trilateral meetings. As I said vesterday, the focus was primarily on the bilateral aspect of it, but there was considerable discussion of how the trilateral meetings would fit into the overall picture; the importance of the trilateral meetings from the standpoint of regional development.

Finally, the third objective of the trip was to deepen the discussion on the Syrian track. I felt that my last trip had removed some of the major psychological barriers. There was less testing between the parties and downto-earth discussions. I find that in this conversation was a very conscientious searching on the part of both of

them as to the needs of the other party. They were not utterly self-absorbed, but they were rather thinking about what the needs of the other party were and what might to done to achieve

As I've said before, the various aspects are very much intertwined, interrelated. You could see that borne out in Prime Minister Rabin's comment yesterday when he said Syria wants peace, and the issue now is timing and the price.

That indicated he saw how interrelated each of these matters are. So it will be difficult for us to portray progress on any one of many issues. It may not in the long run be significant unless there is progress on other issues. I know this is a time of some frustration for reporters. I don't feel I can report incremental progress on specific issues. But I can say in an overall sense that I feel the discussions are very meaningful to both of the parties. There is a good deal for them to think about and chew on as we leave the region. As I said, the reason why we are not going back to Damascus is that I felt the one long meeting that I had with Assad accomplished what could be accomplished at the present time. There was no need for a second meeting. I thought it might take two meetings to accomplish what we were able to achieve in the meetings that we had.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis seek to curb pork-laced meat

DUBBAI (AFP) - Saudi Arabia has moved to preven canned meat containing pork entering the country after it was discovered in neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE). Saudi Arabia has sent a delegation from its commerce ministry to the UAE to discuss upgrading examination of foodstuffs before they are allowed into the country. "The visit follows discovery of canned beef containing pork. The delegation is discussing stronger control of food imports in the UAE as a large part of its reexports go to Saudi Arabia," a UAE official said. According to the official UAE news agency WAM, the Saudi delegation met with food control officials in Dubai Tuesday. It said the two sides agreed on boosting coopers. tion and exchanging information on the quality of imported food to upgrade examination techniques. They also called for accelerated plans to link laboratories in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), especially in the field of food control, it added. The UAE this year banned several kinds of canned meat imported from the Netherlands, the Philippines and other countries after tests showed they contained pork, which is prohibited by Islam.

Two Pakistanis held in Kuwait for drug smuggling

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - Two Pakistanis were arrested at Kuwait airport carrying two kilogrammes of heroin with a street value of \$800,000, the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said. The two passengers, who had flown back from Pakistan to Kuwait where they lived, had hidden the drugs in their clothes, airport customs chief Walid Al Sabej said. It was one of the biggest drugs hauls in Kuwait for several months. KUNA did not say when the arrests took place. The Kuwaiti parliament is soon to discuss whether to introduce the death penalty for drug traffickers. Capital punishment for drug smuggling already exists in two other Gulf states — Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dozens of traffickers have been executed in Saudi Arabia since the penalty was introduced in 1987, but no executions have been reported in the UAE.

Swiss drop case against Turkish envoy

BERNE (R) - Switzerland has dropped criminal proceedings against the former Turkish ambassador and embassy staff in connection with the shooting death of a Kurdish demonstrator, a magistrate said on Tuesday. Magistrate Peter Knuz told Reuters the precondition for a trial or further legal proceedings did not exist as the Turkish government had declined to cooperate and lift the diplomatic immunity of the six people under investigation. "The preconditions for a trial just don't exist," Mr. Kunz said in a telephone interview. The Swiss justice ministry regretted the outcome. "It is clearly with deep regret that we realise there is very little prospect of success for further proceedings," said a spokeswoman for the justice ministry. Magistrates had investigated former Turkish Ambassador Topen Kaya and five other embassy staff on charges of murder, unintentional killing and endangerment of life. On June 24, 1993, a 29-year-old Kurdish demonstrator, Semsettin Kurt, was shot dead and nine others were injured in connection with a demonstration outside the Turkish embassy in the Swiss capital.

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Bardot calls for veterinary clinic in Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — Brigitte Bardot, former French film star turned animal campaigner, urged Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in an open letter Tuesday to open an animal clinic in Beirut. "I am of course aware of the dramatic events which have painfully scarred Lebanon in recent years, and see my request only as hope for a better humanity," Ms. Bardot wrote. She said a dispensary would help animal protection campaigns in Beirut and allow those who could not afford vets fees to seek cheaper treatment for their pets. "I am asking for a little hope and generosity from you to use your influence so your country tan defend and protect animals," Ms. Bardot told Mr. Hrawi.

Beirut again calls for death sentence on Geagea

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government on Tuesday called for the death sentence to be imposed on former Christian party chief Samir Geagea on a third charge, judicial officials said. The latest appeal for a capital sentence relates to charges that Dr. Geagea was involved in the 1989 murder of a Christian leader, Elias Zaveck, Dr. Geagea, who headed the recently disbanded Lebanese Forces (LF), stands accused in two other violent incidents for which the state has sought the death sentence: An explosion in a church north of here in February that killed 11 people, and the assassination in October 1990 of another Christian leader, Dany Chamoun, and members of his family. Dr. Geagea denied involvement in the killing of Zayeck during his arraignment July 13, dismissing the charge as "fabricated." His trial is set to begin late next month. Dr. Geagea has been held since April 21 at the Defence Ministry near here. His lawyer has asked that he be transferred to a prison under the jurisdiction of judicial authorities and has boycotted preliminary hearings as a sign of protest. The Lebanese Forces militia, which became a political party in 1991 when paramilitary formations were dismantled, was dissolved last March after being accused of inciting confessional strife.

Turkish footballer held in Macedonia

ANKARA (R) — Macedonian police have seized Turkey's ex-soccer star Tanju Colak, sentenced to jail at home for car smuggling, and are holding him in detention, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. A ministry official said Turkey had demanded his extradition from Macedonian capital Skopje, where he fled to avoid a jail sentence at home. "The formalities have been completed," he said. "We are waiting for him to be returned."

m (RJ) Flights

Iran's new tank appears modelled on U.S. armour

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) - A new tack Iran says it has built appears to modelled on U.S. armour sold to Tehran before the 1979 revolution rather than on Russia's T-72 as orisinally thought, Western experts say.

Jane's Defence Weekly published what it said were e first photographs on the Famian Zulfigar — named after the sword of a legendary Shiite Muslim warrior — in its latest edition which reaches newstands Wednes-

An advance copy of the article was made available to the AP.

These show a tank with what appears to be an airsooled engine and carried a and 105-mm main gun, unlike most former Soviet

sold to Iran by Washington

before the 1979 Islamic revolution have air-cooled V-12 deisel power plants and pack

Iran took delivery of more than 800 U.S. tanks under the late Shah, deposed in 1979. But many were lost during the 1980-88 war with Iraq and chronic spares shortages have left many more non-operational.

The Zulfiqar, unveiled in Tehran April 14, also does not have the distinctive low, rounded turnet of the T-72, which packs a 125-mm smooth-bore gun and is po-wered by a liquid-cooled engine, an earlier-model Soviet

"The main armament appears to be a 105-mm L7/ M68 rifled gun, fitted to U.S.-built M48A5 and M60A1 tanks in service with Iran for many years," the authoritative weekly re-

"Zulfigar does not resemble the T-72 or any other Russian main battle tank and the analysis of its design is setting a tricky puzzle for Western intelligence agen-

It is not clear whether Iran plans to mass produce the Zulfigar. But Western Weapons systems experts contacted by the Associated Press said Tehran is not believed to have the engineering capabilities of starting a Zulfigar production line at

"It's probable they've built one or two prototypes and trotted them out for propaganda purposes. There's certainly no evidence so far that is has gone, or is about to go, into full production, which is quite difficult," said Christopher Foss, editor of Jane's Armour and Artillery Yearbook.

However, Iran, which is currently engaged in a major rearmament programme, has been striving for the last de-cade to build an arms industry to achieve a degree of self-sufficiency and counter international arms embargoes. One of its main requirements now is new armour.

Iran can currently produce mortars, light arms, unguided battlefield rockets and is reputed to be working on developing the means to produce missiles and light armoured vehicles. Tehran claims it can now produce spare parts for its U.S.-built F14 and F-5 combat jets.

In the past, Iran has publicly displayed a light training aircraft, a . helicopter and other equipment it claimed

Court cuts sentence in libel-against-mufti case

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian appeal court on Tuesday softhree men convicted of libeliing the grand mufti, Egypt's highest religious authority, court sources said. The three - Shaaban

mil of Al Azhar University in Cairo, Ali Al Salous of Qatar University and Ali Farouk Ali Hassan, editor-inchief of the defunct fun-Nonr - had their six-month jail sentences cut to six months suspended after they apologised to the mufti. The case is one of a few in

which the government has used the courts to protect the religious establishment from attacks by the fundamentalist

right.
In articles in Al Nour the

three men criticised fatwas (legal rulings) from the mufti-on financial dealings and on the importation of alcohol, saying they were at odds with

They were first sentenced in April but appealed.

Political business'

The U.S. does "political iness" with Islamic fundamentalists in the Middle East, the Egyptian newspap er Al Akhbar charged Tues-

The unnatural American relationship with the symbols of terrorism and extremism under the cover of democracyand human rights are no more than political business," the semi-official paper said in a front-page editorial.

Past and present fight over

By Mimi Mann The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA Throughout Alexandria. archaeologists who want to sav: the ancient city - or at k:_: record it — are in a race builders determined to e . .: a new one. stake is the hazy history

of a Mediterranean metropobuilt on the dreams of Alexander the Great. To win, the scholarly excavators the i stay one step ahead of the bulidozers. This is salvage archaeolo-

gy: Getting to what's buried 2 quickly as possible, recordit what's there, then turning ti - site over to the develop-It is the same story where-

v : past and present collide: Landon, Rome, Athens, Beirut, Jerusalem, even in the vouthful United States, toad-building crews strike ancient Indian burial mounds or civil war remains. In Alexandria, countless

treasures sleep beneath the Secondition people of a city tha: has lived more than

Under a blinding sun, French archaeologist Jean-Yves Empereur hurries from excavation to excavation five at the moment - where his colleagues are trying to find everything in time.

A Roman bath here, bits of mummy wrapping there, parts of an ancient house, the torso of a statue, a broken amphora filled with 1,200 Roman coins.

"Perhaps this was once a garden," Mr. Empereur said. "Someone buried the coins here for safekeeping and nev-er made it back." Many centuries later, the

garden became the site of a theatre, which in its turn has been sacrificed to progress. Alexandria probably holds tens of thousands of such tales, but Mr. Empereur does not have the leisure of day-

dreaming. Archaeologists estimate they have no more than a decade left to dig. "Everything is a piece of the puzzle is Alexandria," said Mr. Empereur, on loan from France's national centre of scientific research to help the Egyptian Antiquities

everything." Exhuming Alexandria's 2,300 years of history is a little like cutting into a pan of lasagna. The earth holds layer after layer of time.

For centuries, Alexandria's buildings had no foundations. New buildings rose on top of old, leaving a lot of history intact. Also, Alexander's architects designed the city in grids, like Washington, D.C. excavators have an idea where buildings should have

"Every time you lower a shovel in Alexandria, great things come up," Bob Bian-chi, a Greco-Roman historian from the United States, told the Associated Press. Alexandria's story begins in 332 B.C.

As Mr. Bianchi describes "Alexander came down from Syria along Alexandria, he looked out and said, what

a harbour'." Alexander, a Macedonian prince with great affection for things Greek, ordered a city built right there, to be named for him and become the capital of his empire. He died

without seeing it. Ancient Alexandria, as large as a good-sized modern city, was designed for beauty, with palaces, temples, gar-dens, fountains and the renowned Alexandria library.

In its heyday, "the Pearl of the Mediterranean" had the world's finest port. In beauty and culture, it rivalled Rome. Alexandria's because so evocative that at least 34 communities around the world adopted it as their own, 12 of them in the Un-

The city flourished under many rulers, including Cleopatra and Mark Antony. But after they committed suicide in 30 B.C., disaster

Riots, battles, invasions, earthquakes, fires and fluctuating sea levels took their toll on Alexander's city. Lost within its every-changing precincts were the library, the tombs of Alexander, Cleopatra and Mark Antony; colonnaded temples, the world's largest gymnasium, mosaic-covered baths, and docks for small sailboats that

took families on Sunday ex-By the Middle Ages even the Pharohs lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was gone.

Mr. Bianchi said two modern events had done the most to interfere with the preservation of Alexandria's

.— A British bombardment in July 1882 that destroyed major portions of the city. Construction of a waterfront highway a few decades ago that turned innumerable relics to powder, then dunsped them into the sea.

Modern architecture has become the latest threat. High-rise buildings require deep foundations. At many sites, piles are driven almost 15 metres down, mutilating everything in their path. The archaeologists try to get there

Mohammad Awad, an architect, is a founding member of the Alexandria Preservation Trust, whose 300 members scour the city for signs of antiquities on build-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

If necessary, they file lawsuits to stop construction. That happened in 1993 when an extraordinary mosaic and other valuable antiquities were discovered at the site intended for a new Alexandrie library.

"We have now a unique opportunity to study ancient Alexandria before all the city has been redeveloped," Mr. Awad said. "Below ground is the story of a city that's completely lost. So many parts are missing." Government officials and

construction companies often denounce requests that building projects be delayed for archaeology. By law, construction must give way to antiquities, but antiquities officials often lack the will to use that power. In June, construction

workers driving huge piles for a new university building hit a Roman water system, piercing an arch. Had the Roman walls not been six metres thick, the entire structure would have collapsed.

FORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO Le Monde Fantastique Des Ani-

PRAYER TIMES

News in Hebrow

. News in Arabic

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweitleh, Tel. 810740 blies of God Church, Tcl.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assumeiation Tel. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terratancta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Amenication Tel. 622361. Anglicus Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

rmeniau Cutholic Church Tel-St. Ephrain Church Tel. 771751. 652526 gregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. The Evengelical Local Church is Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather condi-tions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Agaba, winds will be northerly

25/37 18/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30 Aqaba 37, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY Dr. Bassim Qaddumi Dr. Yousef Al Faqib Dr. Yousef Nasr Dr. Abdal Hadi Tayin . 751144 . 620115 First pharmacy
Ferdows pharmacy
Al Asema pharmacy
Nairoukh pharmacy 637055 623672 636730 . 644945 . 637660 hmeisani pharmacy Vairoujh pharmacy

mad Al Khalili 273099 Al Cods pha Dr. Yousef Harzallah 988075 EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Ez Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 . 61710 Hood Bank
Lighway Police
Traffic Police
Public Security Department
Hotel Complaints
Price Complaints
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 630321

787111 bone Informatio ectory amist Repairs 622101 Abdail Telephone Repairs 661101 Radio Jordan Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Blectric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hustoin Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Arm 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Arm 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malias, J. Amman 636140 Shmeisumi Hospital
University Hospital
Al-Messiter Hospital
The Islamic, Abdali
Al-Abli, Abdali
Italian, Al-Muhajreen
Al-Bushir, J. Astarafich 666127/37 v.J. Ashrafich 775111/26 .. 674155

(09)983323 (09)900560 Princess Flaya Hospital (03)314111 POR THE TRAVELLER

> QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

APRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) **H**:25 Singapore, Knala Lampur (RJ)

18:46 New York, Amsterdam (RI) Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ) ... London, Berlin (RI .. Casabianca, Tunis (RJ) 19:45 Aba Dhabi, Al'Ain (RI ------ Rome (RJ) Madrid (add) (RJ) ... Lamaca (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) Shurquh (AH) Abu Dhubi (GF) Munich (DE) Riyadh (SV) Sanan (IY) Cairo (MS)

23:30

Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (R Madrid (add) (RI)

Montreal, Toronto (RI)

materdam, Chicago (RI) 12:15 13:45 2**2:**15 20:45 21:15 L Doha (RI) Joddah (RI) 22:30 Dubai, Muscut (RJ) 22:45 Kusia Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) cons, Paris (AF) ... Beirut (ME)

23:20 . 61:25 .

DEPARTURE

14:35 Sharm Al Sheikh, 15:39 Munich (DE)
... Riyadh (SV)
... Istanbul (TK)
.... Cairo (MS)
.... Dubai (EK) Dep. Austream ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Dammeum 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dup. Dammeum 7:30 a.m. every Senday Arr. America 5:00 p.m. overy Sunday MARKET PRICES 6507 450 620 270/200 180 / 100 180Y 100 290 / 200 480 / 380 200 / 100 420 / 300 270 / 200 700 / 500 250 / 180 420' 280 900' 600 120/ 70 700/ 500

stijaz Railwa'

TRAIN

Jordanian vocalists take to the Fuheis stage

By Angham Tamimi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In cooperation with the Jordanian Musicians Association, the Fuheis Festival Tuesday night intro-duced four Jordanian singers itwo juniors and two seriors.

A'amer Mohammad, 23, is one of the young singers who made his debut before the Jordanian public.

thave loved music since childbood," Mr. Mohammad told the Jordan Times. "I ocgan singing in 1988, and I alsp compose my own songs. When I was a child, I participated in many festivals with the school singing group."

Planning to become professional singer, Mr. Mohammad recently recorded a song in Baghdad. He believed that the quick modern song is the right way to the audience's

Rami Shafiq, 20, followed the steps of A amer Mohammad. From his performances at Fuheis it appeared that the new trend was spreading among today's young singers.
(Mohammad Abu Gharib, 3½, appeared on stage, he to amuse people and arouse them to dance."

Actually, he succeeded to arriuse the sleepy audience. Most of them were seen dancing, while he sang. Mr. Gharib is inspired by Egyptian popular singer Ahmad Adawiya, whose songs and style of movements on stage make you want to throw away the chair you are sitting Gharib.

"If I have enough talent to present a kind of art that amuses people, and if I have an acceptable personality on stage, so why should I educate myself? Art is just like on his pocket recorder, and football. Maradona did not began clapping to Ms. Safastudy how to shoot the ball, di's tunes.



but he is the world star," said Mr. Gharib.

"The problem of any artist is to recognise what the audience wants. I know that who-. ever comes to the theatre does not want to listen to music or songs, but rather wants to dance," added Mr.

Adieu Mr. Art! Mr. Charib, who began singing in 1984, believes that lordanian singer, drew in her talent comes before educasengs and her popular voice. American singer Russell,

of the Crossing Borders group which performed at the Jerash Festival last month, was quite amused. He turned

The vocalist began her career in 1972. "My talent helped me improve my style, voice level, and helped me choose the type that suites me," Ms. Safadi told the Jordan Times. The singer participated in many festivals in Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Romania where she was greatly encouraged.

As vice president of the Jordanian Musicians Association, Mrs. Safadi is the first woman to occupy this post. Mohammad Hazza' of the

Ministry of Education described Ms. Safadi as one of the generation of this difficult age. "Yes, it is a difficult age, because we have to fight in order to feel that we exist,"

Health minister meets with WHO official American students visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Mizister Aref university with Jordanian universities. The two sides visited the university's museums. alsp discussed prospects of dispatching Jordanian physicians to specialise in community International youth camp to medicine at the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) and the University of

Poãce officers head for Mozambique, Croatia

(PSD) left Amman Wednesday to join U.N. entails seminars, field trips to projects, volunproce keeping forces in Mozambique and tary work for the local community and meet-Croatia. The 20-member group was seen off ings with officials as well as visits to by PSD Director Abdul Rahman Udwan. archaeological sites in Jordan.

Be ainch Wednesday met with Omar Sulei-AMMAN (Petra) — A group of American man, the regional director of the World students from Brigham Young University Figelth Organisation (WHO) and discussed Wednesday visited the University of Iordan issues related to community medicine prog- and were briefed on educational programme ratheres which are currently being executed there. The visitors were also acquainted with with assistance from WHO and in cooperation students' extracurricular activities and they

Josean under a programme sponsored by AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 115 young WHO.

Jordanians working and living in 16 Arab and foreign countries will gather at a youth camp in Ajloun Saturday to start a week-long programme of voluntary and orientation acti-ANMAN (Petra) — Another group of police vities. The event, which will be opened under officers from the Public Security Department the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor,

British Airways to resume Amman flights British Airways, in London. Mr. Ayling also Amman flights at the height of an international depression of the aviation announced that British Air-

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Airways will resume its Amman flights on Dec. 8, ending an almost five-year hiatus prompted by the recession that hit international aviation in the late 80s, it was announced Wednes-

The decision by one of the leading European airlines was seen as a direct reflection of the changing environment in the Middle East as a result of the Arab-Israeli peace process and expectations that peace would bring in waves of tourists to the region.

The announcement was made by Robert Ayling, group managing director of

ways was also resuming its Beirut flights on the same date after an 11-year suspension prompted by the civil war in Lebanon.

In the three years since the civil war ended, Lebanon's economy has improved, and "Jordan too is seeing the economic benefits of peace," Mr. Ayling said. "We are glad now to be able to implement our long-standing plans to re-turn to Beirut and Am-

Tony Christodola, public relations manager of British Airways, told the Jordan Times that the airline intends to operate two weekly flights to Amman

with Boeing 767 aircraft in the initial stage and gra-dually raising flights to four

The configuration of the plane will be 10 first class, and 40 "Club World" and 141 "World Traveller" class seats, he said. "Jordan is the place to

focus on now," Mr. Christ-odola said in a telephone interview from Beirut. "Jordan is spending a tremendous amount of money to develop tourism to Petra, Jerash, Aqaba etc. Jordan deserves all the attention one could give in

bring you more tourists and men to Jordan,' said Mr. Christodola. The airline suspended its

"British Airways will

industry. It used to operate two flights a week to Jordan when it closed the operations, down from four flights a week in the late

Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Kingdom's national carrier, stepped in to fill in the vacuum left by the British airline's departure.

Most international airlines suspended their flights to Amman at the height of the Gulf crisis. The first to resume full operation was Air France followed by KLM, the Dutch Airlines, which now operates daily flights between Amman

"Cooperation in tourism among Israel, Jordan and Egypt holds out ndous possibilities,

Swissair was planning to

resume its Amman flight by

Lufthansa, the German

airline, has not taken any

final decision on resuming

its flights to Jordan, the

lines are now looking at

said the local manager of a

European arrline. "The fast

events in the peace process have left many wishing that they had made advance

preparations and studied

the logistics of coming back

to Amman or opening new

Jordan with new interest,

"Most international air-

April/May 1995.

sources said.

Industry sources said

Princess Sumaya lays cornerstone of college department complex



AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Al Hassan Wednesday laid the foundation stone of a permanent complex to house the Electronic Engineering Department at Princess Sumaya University College for Technology (PSUCT) on the grounds of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Accompanied by Mini "of Higher Education Rateb "Al Saoud and RSS President" "Hani Mulki, the Princess also inaugurated the students activities building. RSS officials said the new

Electronic Engineering Delaboratories, lecture halls, and staff offices, and the already completed students activities building comprises sports and recreational areas in addition to other facilities. Princess Sumaya later

attended the graduation ceremony of the 16th and last class of students from the computer college. Students in the two-year

computer training course will be able to pursue higher stu-dies and obtain a bachelors degree in computer sciences following an extra two-year training course, said an RSS

He said the electronic engineering programme is a five-year programme leading to the bachelors degree.

The Princess distributed diplomas to the graduates during the ceremony, which was attended by members of the college board of trustees.

So far the college has graduated 669 students including 10 from non-Jordanian Arab countries. College Dean Mohammadi

Qariputi deliveredan address: thanking Princess Sumaya for patronising the ceremony, noting that the college has signed contracts with two U.S. universities to provide expertise and training to the students in the new Computer Sciences Department.

The Higher Council for Education earlier this year accredited the specialisation of computer science at Princess Sumaya University College for Technology.

The PSUCF, established in 1991, enrolled its first group of students in computer science in 1991. In 1993, PSUCT expanded its educational activities and started to teach electronics engineering. The college grants the bachelors degree in both specialisations.

Tourism minister to meet Israeli counterpart soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Tourism Mohammad with his Israeli counterpart Uzi Barak within the coming two weeks to explore venues of cooperation in the tourism industry, informed sources have said.

The sources told the Jordan Times, Tuesday evening that the meeting would take place at the new Aqaba-Eilat crossing point which was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday.

Mr. Barak initiated a phone call to Dr. Adwan Tuesday to discuss cooperation in the tourism sector and invite him to visit Israel, the sources said. They said Dr. Adwan told

his Israeli counterpart that it is "premature" for him to visit Israel at this point, noting that Jordanian and Israeli committees are discussing tourism issues within the framework of the The Aqaba-Eilat cros-

sing point, which would serve third country nationils, was agreed upon in the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25. Under the Declaration, another crossing point will be opened in a location in the north that has not yet been chosen. The opening of the crossing point was followed by

a Jordanian-Israeli summit in Aqaba. The opening of the road link between Jordan and Israel is expected to lead to

a boost in the number of



tourists visiting the two countries as visitors to both will be able to cross to the borders after only a fourkilometre drive.

Visas for the tourists could be issued at the border, but Israelis who hold dual nationalities need to obtain prior clearance.

Labour ministry, nurses' union to cooperate on employment issues

AMMAN (J.T.) at This renewal of their work per-Ministry of Labour is pie-mits according to the Jordan bared to cooperate with the News Agency, Petra. Jordanian Nurses' Union At the meeting, Mr. Bzour (JNU) regarding related employment practices of the pri-vate and public sectors, Labour Minister Khaled

Ghzawi said Wednesday. Speaking during a visit to the JNU office with the union's board members and Board Chairperson Nazeeh Bour, Mr. Ghzawi said the Ministry of Labour was intent on denying work permits to foreign nurses without prior approval from the JNU and before giving priority in employment to Jordanian

The minister requested a list of names of the foreign female murses employed by the private sector in order to re-examine their applications and status at the time of the

presented the case of the Jordanian nurses and their grievances and complaints to nurses at private hospitals receive lower wages than their colleagues employed by the public sector and are working

minister, noting that

longer hours. According to the JNU, Jordan currently employs 153 non-Jordanian male and female nurses, while 525 Jordanian male and female

nurses currently are seeking The minister told the JNU board that the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) was ready to cooperate with

them in organising special-

ised training courses for

Jordanian nurses so that they

could quality for posts cur- li rently occupied by foreigner all infant care units.

According to Mr. Bzour, the JNU has set up a committee to respond to complaints nurses in the private and public sectors.

Last April, Mr. Bzour announced that the INU had taken action in court to ensure better pay for government-employed

He said that the action was necessary after two futile years of attempts to acquire better pay for the nurses, adding that the Labour Law stipulates that nurses are required to work six and not eight hours per day as they are doing now with no over-

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from * Caricature drawings exhibition by Imad monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Hajjaj, Kifah Mahmoud, and Khaldoun Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FUHEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- ☆ Concert by Lebanese vocalist Najwa Seram at the main theatre on Thursday at
- Children play "Children's Garden" at Bait Al Fuheis Theatre on Thursday at 11:00
- Concert by Iraqi vecalist Mohmoud Anwai at the main theatre on Thursday at 21:00. Children's play "Laila and the Wolf" to be followed by folkloric dances at Bait Al Fubers Theatre on Friday at 11:00 a.m. Seminar in Arabic entitled "Jordanian
- cipation of Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad and Mr. Najib Al Rashdan at the festival site on Thursday at 18:30. ☆ Poetry recital by Ibrahim Nassereddin, Jeries Samawi, Zuhair Abu Shaib, Taher Riyadh, and Yousef Abdul Aziz at the site
- festival on Thursday at 19:30. Serginar in Arabic entitled "Drama in Jordan" with the participation of Mu'nis Razzaz, Nazih Abu Nidal, and Ramadan Al 🚓 Rawashdeh on Friday at 18:30.
- ☆ Rehibition of Jordanian scripts, docu- ☆ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Techments, and books. Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Ammaren, Darya Zetzifa, Norma Hattar, 🕁
- and Itias Tu'meh. Exhibition on the city of Salt.

- * Exhibition of handicrafts.
- * Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participa-tion of the private and public sectors).

☆ Play in Arabic entitled "The Man Who

Ate-The Goose" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday and Friday at 20:00.

Concert of Armenian pop songs by Karnig Sarkissian at the Royal Cultural Centre at

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE Pioneering Experiences" with the parti-"Ond" performance by unsician Jalal Al Wandi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture on Thursday at 20:00 (Tel.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuheis (10:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.) (Tel.
- Exhibition of ceramic works by Samar Tarazi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - nologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center. Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfall Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

Britain donates £13,500 to Save the Children Federation Donation to help women's credit programme in poverty sectors

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Peter Hinchcliff, the British ambassador in Amman, Wednesday presented a cheque for £13,500 to Mark Eldou-Edington in support of the Save the Children Federation in Jordan (SCF).

used for a state-of-the-art credit programme for poor women based on grouplending principles, according to Mr. Eldon-Edington, field office director of SCF. "We recognise that women spend more time

trying to earn money to

help their husbands, and

The donation will be

spend less time with their children," said Mr.Eldon-Edington He said the major problem that poor women face in this area is lack of credit

and loans. "Poor women don't have access to loans in Jordan and they cannot get guarantees from banks and institutions.

"We hope that our prog-

ramine will help build up their credit," he said. According to Mr. Eldon-Edington, the project. which started in late June is a pilot project which grants 30 loans to women in groups of 10, adding that non-governmental orga-

nisations (NGOs) can work closely with the govern-

ment to implement poverty reduction programmes.

The SCF initial project

site of Mahatta, he said, was chosen in consultation with the Ministry of Social Development. "We hope that in the near future we expand our

the NGOs and strengthen their capacity so that they can implement the programmes themselves," Mr. Eldon-Edington told the Jordan Times. Rana Saifi, the develop-ment officer at the British embassy, said this initial

grant from the embassy will

be distributed for women

project and cooperate with

to invest in small projects with a capacity to expand in the future. "Financially poor women will get the chance to put their hands together to work on establishing their own economic status through this poverty-

reduction programme, Ms. Saifi said. She told the Jordan Times that the key issue in the project is supporting NGO programmes and in poverty reduction, such as promoting the social status of, women and finding solutions to their financial

"Women will get the chance to choose their own activities and will be able to pay up their loans from the

problems of unemploy-



British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliff Edington in support of the federation's prog-(centre) Wednesday presents a cheque to Save ramme to improve the economic conditions of the Children Federation's Mark Eldon-poor women

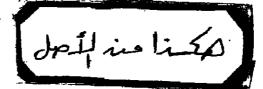
money they make," she said. Many women who enrolled in the project are entitled to other future loans if they succeed in closing their dept, Ms. Saifi said.

Some of the activities that the poor women adopted included producing cushions, handbags, wallets, cleaning materials, cigarettes, vegetables, baby pads and watermelon and

producing small groceries at home and selling them. She added that most women were encouraged by the idea, and "some of them told me that they plan to better their lives through increasing their income by increasing the trade and competing with other SOurces.

SCF which has been established in 1985, aims at making lasting, positive changes in the lives of disadvantaged children, their families and the communities in which they live, through sustainable community development programmes.

The poverty reduction programme also includes early childhood development, basic education and preventive health.



Selection from Wagnerian opera

kilis zoo anima

COPENHAGEN (AP) Opera may be sweet music in some people's ears. But to one animal, it was fatal. The

Copenhagen Zoo said that

one of its okapis - a rare

African mammal related to

the giraffe - died last week

from stress apparently trig-

gered by the sound of opera

singers reheasing at a nearby

park. The six-year-old okapi named Katanda, which like

other mammals can be sev.

erely affected by unusual

sounds, reacted immediately

when Royal Theatre perior-

mers began singing some 300

metres from its cage, said 200

spokesman Peter Haase

"We don't know why, but she

reacted to the opera sounds

She started hyperventilating went into shock and col-

lapsed," Mr. Haase said

"We did all we could, but she

died Saturday." An autopsy performed Tuesday deter-

mined the animal suffered a

severe "stress" attack when

singers began rehearsing

selections from Richard Was-ner's Tannhauser. Katanda

was brought to the

Copenhagen Zoo last year from the San Diego Zoo, in

California. Eight months

ago, Katanda gave birth to a calf in Copenhagen. Hasse said neither the calf nor a

male okapi appeared to so severely to the singling. The sound also had no dis-

cernible effect on the zoo's

other excitable animals, in-

cluding antelopes and zebras, he said. The Royal Theatre

"very deeply regretted the animal's death," said a

spokesman, Jon Stephensen.

SYDNEY (R) — A one-

eyed, six-year-old dog named

Blackie has inherited Austra-

lian dollars 50,000 (\$37,000)

but the windfall has bought

him no sweet bones, just a

bitter legal battle. Blackie's

owner, John Goodchild, died

of lung cancer in February

1993, but before he passed

away he made sure his trusty

companion would be taken

care of, the West Australian

newspaper reported Wednes-day. Mr. Goodchild left Au-

stralian dollars 50,000 in 2

trust account for Blackie, to

be administered by dog ker-

nel owner Barbara Norris.

However, his son David has

Australian dog

inherits \$37,000,

lands in court

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Massacre predicted if Haiti crisis is not resolved soon

- Haiti's leading prodemocracy activist accused the military Tuesday of arming thousands of civilian supporters to massacre Haitians, not to resist a possible invasion.

"The only target for the weapons is the people," capital Mayor Evans Paul, in hiding since a 1991 military coup, told the Associated Press in a 90-minute interview from a safehouse.

The military has turned over weapons to paramilitary recruits in the past several days and led them in training in downtown Port-Au-Prince. The arms are among 30,000 guns seized from the Duvalier dictatorship's Tonton Macoute terror squad when it was disbanded in 1986, said Frantz-Robert Monde, president of Haiti's lower house of parliament.

Twenty-thousand of those weapons are reserved for distribution in the capital and the remainder for the conntryside, said Mr. Monde, a former Macoute and close associate of capital Police Chief Joseph Michel Fran-

BOGOTA (R) — The assas-

sination of a leading leftist politician has highlighted

what human rights groups say

The shooting death of

Senator Manuel cepeda Var-

gas in broad daylight in Bogota prompted human

rights activists to call for Col-

ombia's brand-new president

to take steps and improve the

President Ernesto Samper,

who took office Sunday, was

quick to condemn the killing,

saying: "We will intensify all

the state's actions to keep

fighting all class of incidents

that interrupt the people's

But human rights. activists

expressed scepticism. They

recalled the good intentions

of previous governments

are appalling rights condi-

tions in Colombia

situation.

well being."

A knowledgeable diplomat could not confirm the 30,000weapon figure but said the army "very efficiently" disarmed the Macontes in 1986. The Macoutes commonly used M-1 carbines, the diplomat said on condition of anonymity. M-1s have been carried by some recruits in

their training exercises. The exercises themselves have been portrayed as street threatre seeking to deter the United States from invading or to intimidate the Haitian

"I think despite the people running around, shooting around trees with broomsticks, nobody's particularly concerned about the big show that's taking place to encourage nationalist fervour," U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager told reporters Tuesday.
"But I don't think anybody

has any doubt that the initial phase of any kind of (U.S.) military intervention would be very difficult. It's what happens after that."
U.S. officials, publicly

committed to ending the

strategy to stop the vio-lence," said Jesus Anibal Suarez, secretary of the

Permanent Committee on

Sen. Cepeda was the most important left-wing politician

to be murdered in Colombia

since the M-19 movement's

presidential candidate, Carlos

Pizarro, was shot dead

aboard an airliner in April

1990. Hundreds of lesser

activists have died in the in-

Amnesty International

officials, during a recent news

conference in Bogota, accused Colombia of being one

of the worst human rights

violators in the world with more

than 20,000 political killings in the last eight years.

for most of the killings and

called on the United States to

It blamed security forces

tervening four years.

Colombia killing of leftist senator

a grim reminder of rights abuses

Human Rights.

nearly three-year rule of Hai-tian coup leaders, are examining ways to both seize key installations and protect Haitians from their own soldiers. The military and its allies are responsible for many of the up to 3,000 political killings after the overthrow of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

People in the democratic movement have expressed concern that they and their supporters could be targeted by the new recruits. Many of them former Macoutes or soldiers. The weapons also could be used for vengeance or extortion, said Mayor Paul, who led Mr. Aristide's successful 1990 presidential

"Most of them (the recruits), covered by a political alibi, will try to settle their own personal problems," said Mr. Paul, who escaped an assassination attempt in September.

He and a group of American clergy and human rights advocates living in Haiti urged Washington to move swiftly to end the milit-

Party and the leftist Patriotic

Like many of Colombia's

political assassinations, Sen.

Ceneda's had been foresha-

dowed by death threats, and

the government was accused

of failing to prevent it.
Standing beside the car in

which his father's bloodied

body lay, Ivan Cepeda Var-

gas told Reuters that Manuel Cepeda has complained to

the government about the death threats he had received

and asked for protection but

"The government never offered him protection," he

said, as Communist Party activists chanted: "The milit-

ary assassinated Manuel

Cepeda with government

Sen. Cepeda was driving

into Bogota from a western

Union Party.

got no help.

complicity."

"Every day of delay costs more lives," the American group told U.S. Ambassador William Swing in a statement Tuesday. "Any action taken must not be used as a pretent for subsequent attack on the general population."

Making a similar point, Mr. Paul reported a shooting attack Tuesday night on the home of suburban Petionville Mayor Lydie Parent and her brother, pro-Aristide Sen. Clark Parent. A woman living in the home was wounded, Mr. Paul said.

Mr. Monde, the pro-army parliamentarian, and Sen. Bernard Sansaricq, a friend of army Commander Raoul Cedras, told the AP the paramilitary units could enter poor neighbourhoods and be-gin shooting if U.S.-led troops invaded.

"Îf there is an invasion, whole towns will be set on fire," Mr. Monde ssaid. The poorer neighbourhoods tend to be Aristide

"The United States doesn't know what it's getting into," Sen. Sansaricq said. "It's giv-ing me bad dreams."

Concerns raised over Cambodian army

KAMPOT, Cambodia (R) -The Cambodian army is encircling a Khmer Rouge camp where three Western hos-tages are being held, raising

Some local army units have advanced to within 500 metres of Khmer Rouge positions near their commune at Vine Mountain, about 150 kilometres south of Phnom-Penh, a senior army officer. said Tuesday.

"Now we have a plan to surround the place where they have the hostages and then we will speak to them (Khmer Rouge) and ask them to be released," Colonel Som Sokha said from a roadside outpost in Kompong Trach district, close to Vine

"If they don't release the foreigners, we will attack.'

Mark Slater, 28, from Bri-tain, Jean-Michel Braquet, 28, from France and David Wilson, 29, an Australian, were taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge after their Kampot-bound train was ambushed on July 26.

Col. Sokha estimated more than 5,000 soldiers would be required to complete the encirclement.

out of talks between Russia

and Moldova on the with-

suggested agreement be-

tween negotiators on a with-

interests.

du-bliud

fears they could jeopardise negotiations to free the cap-tives, diplomats said Wednes-

Thirteen people were killed in the attack and another 16 were still held captive, including the three Westerners and three ethnic Viet-



An armed Haltism civilian receives basic in recruited civilians in an effort to prepare them Port-An-Prince, Haiti. The Haitian army has for a possible U.S. military invasion of their distributed thousands of old rifles to newly country (AFP photo)

Taslima Nasrin said to leave Bangladesh yet," said Zahid Hossain,

DHAKA (R) — Controversial Bangladeshi feminist writer Taslima Nasrin, under death threat from Muslim extremists for allegedly insulting Islam, has left the country for an unknown destination, a senior government official said Wednesday.

"My information says she appears to have left the country," Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmad told repor-

A new Dhaka newspaper, Al Mujadded, reported earlier Wednesay that Ms. Nasrin had left for Bangkok Tuesday with a Norwegian

passport.
The Bangladeshi Home and Foreign Affairs Ministers immediately denied any knowledge of her move-

Ms. Nasrin was granted bail by the High Court last Wednesday on a charge of insulting Islam. Mr. Ahmad said there was no bar on her leaving the country. "She is now free to go out

of the country and return like any other citizen," he told

Police lifted a warrant of arrest on her last Friday but were still standing guard at Ms. Nasrin's Dhaka apart-

"Our job is to guard the apartment. We don't know if she has left or not," one police officer said.

Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday afternoon they were still checking on reports about her leaving "We could not confirm it

director-general of the ministry's External Publicity De-Al-Mujadded said the

Norwegian charge d'affairs met Foreign Ministry officials in Dhaka Tuesday, but this could not be confirmed. Ms. Nasrin's family could

not be contacted. However, police said they saw Ms. Nasrin's younger sister, Roxana Yasmin, leaving the apart-ment early Wednesday. They could not give further details. Ms. Nasrin's friends, who also said they did not know if she had already flown out,

said her probable destinations would be Norway or Sweden "where she is a very acceptable person in the first "Her third choice is the

United States and then Germany," one family friend told Reuters. However, no one knew for certain where she Ms. Nasrin had remained

a fugitive since June 4 after the government ordered her arrest for insulting Muslim religious feelings after she was quoted by India's Statesman newspaper as saying Islam's holy book, The Koran, should be "revised thorough-

Ms. Nasrin said she was misquoted but the newspaper stood by its report.

Earlier, she had offended many Muslims by saying women were treated as slaves by men who practice the reli-

Her purported comment on The Koran provoked

International AIDS conference

tants offered cash rewards for

Ms. Nasrin's court appearance followed two months in hiding. Swedish and Norwegian

foreign ministries would neither confirm nor deny reports that Ms. Nasrin was on her way to either country.
"Yes, we know she has left the country (Bangladesh), Swedish Foreign Ministry spokesman Henrik Norman

told Reuters in Stockholm. "We can neither confirm nor deny anything about Sweden since this would lead to a difficult situation in light of people who are out to kill her," he said.

along with a number of other countries, had been working to guarantee Nasrin's safety and allow her to leave the "The Norwegian Foreign

Mr. Norman said Sweden.

Ministry does not know if she is on her way to Norway," a ministry spokesman in Oslo

He denied an earlier report that a Norwegian diplomat had helped Nasrin leave Dhaka.

The Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas said in a statement she was pleased Ms. Nasrin had been able to leave Bangladesh legally. She gave no precise details of the author's . whereabouts.

"The Swedish government, like many others, has been actively involved in her case for a long time," Ms. Af Ugglas said.

since contested the will. Robbers flee with cash and 2-month old baby

NEW YORK (R) — Robbers at a Brooklyn phone equip-ment store made off with cash, gold chains and the owner's two-month-old baby. cash, gold chains and the authorities said. Adding to the bizarre nature of the crime, the robbers, three men and one woman, made their escape on a city bos that their escape on a city bos that their escape on a city bos that came by, witnesses said. The child was later found in the stairwell of a Brooklyn hospital, a police spokesman said. Some local news reports said the robbery and kidnapping of the baby out of her mother's arms appeared to be drug related and that the child may have been taken for ransom. Store employee Dixon Lugo told reporters that the robbers more money and they said it we don't get more money the stave with us."

There has the first the first both and both and

Mechanic finds new meaning for 'hand in glove'

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — A human hand found in a car hand found in a AUSTIN, Texas (R) :- A glove compartment by a mechanic was "handed down handed down handed down handed down handed h as a family heirfoom and not evidence of foul play, place said Tuesday. The hand was originally owned by a retired University of Montreal analous tomy professor who told the Himbard tomy professor who told the Himbard to the himbar University of Montreas and the Harding tomy professor who told the Harbart police it was a "quirky hand by had the the police it was a "quirky man by ne-down" currently owned by organisation by his granddaughter, Austin by plans the plans to snokes to the plans to th by his granddaughter, Addam Plane in the Police Department spokes for the woman Ann Taylor said. The let which he would be which he would be with he will be with he will be with he will be with the world be with he will be hand, found Monday, or longs to Alison Hastings, a he han in pre-med student at Tulant long of long to the University and a native of long to the long University and a nauve New York state, Ms. Taylor said. Ms. Hastings was visiting friends in Austin when the protection of the protection ing friends in Austin was her car broke down. She flew back to New York state but hosque in Scompartment of her car when and the linking t she dropped it off at a body to the triangle shop for repair, police said.

A Mechanic looking for in the ship of the triangle ship of the triangle ship of the triangle ship of the car. A Mechanic looking for me stend strain formation about the car be strained opened the glove box and believen to the hand, police said. opened the glove box and particle opened the hand, police said to discontinuity of the band of the ban found the name, plants from the hand, which dates from the hand, which dates from the land th on the hand are painted blue high a comment

urges greater awareness, tolerance YOKOHAMA, Japan (AFP) to live in society." - AIDS researchers and als that will accept us. Bed Ms. Suwunjundee, a member of a Thai AIDS support activists attending an interna-

tional conference here called Wednesday for increased awareness of the disease to

prevent the marginalisation of sufferers. During the third-day of an international AIDS conference here, Junsuda Suwunjundee, a Thai woman with

AIDS, said: "Death no longer frightens us. What frightens us is how we can continue group, said that when she initially revealed she had the acquiréd immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), her family was reluctant to carry on

me live in the same house so I decided to leave home for the clinic." she said.

space, however, is limited." She also said that the basic human rights of AIDS patients were infringed by some doctors who secretly tested

for the Human Immunodefiliving with her.
"They were afraid to have ciency Virus, (HIV), the virus which leads to the dis-"If the patient has HIV, they will refuse to treat that

She added: "As we are not welcome in some hospitals,

KISHINYOV (R) — Delegates from the breakaway Dnestr Republic have walked Gen. Kitsak said. Several hundred people died in fighting between Moldrawal of Russia's 14th 1992 June.

Army, accusing both countries of ignoring their region's Russian troops "as an indi-visible part of itself." The observers' walkout came Tuesday, the opening day of the 10th round of Colonel Mikhail Bergman, negotiations between Russia and Moldova on the future status of the army. The move

drawal timetable could be im-Major-General Stefan Kitsak, leader of the Dnestr observer delegation at the talks, said in a statement broadcast on Duestr Radio that the rebel region would only return to the negotiating

Russia and Moldova are believed to be close to an agreement on a three-year timetable for withdrawing the 14th Army. It is quartered in the rebel region on the left bank of the River Dnestr. which divides Moldova in

table if it was granted equal

Gen. Kitsak said it was "impermissible" for Russia and Moldova to agree on a timetable before there was agreement on Dnestr's future political status. This is the subject of separate negotiations, which are only at an A withdrawal of the 14th

in the region and to a new spiral of confrontation,"

dovan and Dnestr fighters in Gen. Kitsak said the local Dnestr population saw the

a senior 14th Army officer, told Reuters this week that 90 per cent of the officers and 100 per cent of the soldiers in the army were from the Duestr region.
Col. Bergman's boss,

Lieutenant-General Alexander Lebed, is at the centre of a row with the Russian Defence Ministry, which is planning a reorganisation of the army command that could abolish his job. Gen. Lebed is also in-

volved in a conflict with the Dnestr leaders, whom he has described as criminals. Gen. Kitsak said the Dnestr side would effectively

wash its hands of all responsi bility for implementing the withdrawal agreement. The 14th Army, estimated at around 15,000 men, has large stocks of weaponry left over from the Soviet period

including several hundred thousand automatic weapons and huge ammunition Colonel Bergman said it would take at least three

years to remove these stockpiles at the rate of one 50wagon train a day.

Both Kishinyov and Mos-

patient," she said. Moldova's Dnestr area quits Russian army pullout talks

Gen. Lebed and Col. Bergman have produced

said only President Boris Yeltsin now had the power to

gure in Mr. Yeltsin's 1991 defeat of a hardline putsch in Moscow and helped save him again by refusing appeals for support by Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi during last October's Moscow power struggle.
"Unless the president

Lebed stood up for him, he won't remain in office for more than three months," Col. Bergman described

Turks, and described him as

He said only Gen. Lebed could save Russia from fascism and hardline nationalism. Last month Gen. Lebed, in

Mr. Yeltsin as "a minus" and praised Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. However, Col. Bergman described his boss, a veteran of Afghanistan and of many other military operations in conflict zones in the former Soviet Union, as a strong opponent of both fascism and com-"People are calling me from St. Petersburg, Mos-

cow, Sverdlovsk and all over

partisan group."
He predicted that morale

in the 14th Army would collapse completely if Gen. Lebed was removed and Moscow agreed with Moldova on a timetable for with-

He predicted that gigantic stocks of weaponry under the



a convention sponsored by the rebel Zapatista

of their gathering. The rebels and their supporters closed their convention calling for the peaceful overthrow of the ruling party in Aug. 21 presidential election (AFP photo jungle in Chiapas state vote on the second day

Zapatista convention ends with call for peaceful change in Mexico

AGUASCALIENTES, Mexico (AFP) — A convention organised by Mexico's Zapatista rebels ended with a call for peaceful change and an appeal to vote against the party that has ruled Mexico

for 65 years. Some 5,000 delegates to the convention that ended Tuesday in the zone of a rebel uprising also called for "four days of peace and justice for democracy" starting Aug. 17 until the Aug. 21. presidential and legislative elections.

Subcommandante Marcos, assumed to be the leader of the Zapatistas who staged a Jan. 1 uprising in this impoverished region, called on 'Mexico's civilian society to lead the way for democratic change and obviate the need for our armed alternative.

"This is not the time for arms, and we will move to the side, but we will not leave." Comm. Marcos told the con-

The delegates came from a variety of peasant, native, academic and labour organisations but there were no representatives from government-recognised opposition groups or major Labour unions.

No major party candidates attended the gathering, which was dubbed the "National Democratic Convention."

The convention sought to mobilise opposition to the Institutional Revolutionary Party which has ruled Mexico for the past 65 years and its presidential candidate, Ernesto Zedillo, who is favoured to win the poll.

But the delegates declined to back either of the two major opposition party candidates — the conservative National Action Party's Diego Fernandez and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas of the centrist Party of of the Democratic Revolution.

Organisers of the convention in a remote jungle region in southern Mexico have called for a constitutional convention aimed at "restoring democracy" through the naming of a provisional government and the creation of a special constituent assembly.

Rebels - whose peace talks with the government were called off until after the elections — have threatened to resume fighting if the bal-

lot is not free and fair.

The delegates called for

strikes, demonstrations and

other unspecified actions if the vote is marred by fraud. But political scientist Pablo Gonzalez Casanova, one of the 100 delegates named to a collective "presidency" said the plan was "not at all insur-

With less than two weeks

before the Mexican election, the democratic Party's campaign has not caught fire the way it did in 1988, when it nearly swept the longtime ruling party from power. The party, known as the PRD, is widely believed to have won more votes in the last election than the Institutional Revolutionary Party

tallying computers were mysteriously shut down. But this year, polls show the left-leaning PRD battling the conservative National Action Party (PAN) for

(PRI), which was delcared

the winner only after vote-

second place behind the PRI. PRD leaders say the party is gaining in the last stretch of the campaign but they concede it has been badly weakened in this election by a six-year campaign by the PRI to portray the PRD and its presidential candidate, Cuanhtemoc Cardenas, as violent and radical.

cow want to prevent the weaponry falling into the hands of the unrecognised Dnestr, Republic, which has laid claim to the stockpiles.

documents which they say

prove the involvement of Duestr President Igor Smirnov in illegal arms traffick-Col. Bergman gave no evi-dence for his accusations but

save Gen. Lebed. Gen. Lebed was a key fi-

stands up for Lebed the way Col. Bergman predicted.

Gen. Lebed as "a historic figure, a personality", adding: "He will be president of Russia. I tell you that as a fact. In Russia people who are disgraced have always come to power. That's Rus-

He praised Gen. Lebed as "a new Peter the First", referring to the tsar who opened Russia to Europe in the early 18th century and won big military victories against the Swedes and the "a cosmic personality."

an outspoken interview with Izvestia newspaper described

the country to support Lebed," he said, adding that artists in Moscow wanted to paint the general's picture. He implied that Gen. Lebed had been let down by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, an old comrade-inarms from the Soviet Air-

borne Forces. They were old friends but money decides everything. How Grachev could do this I don't understand," he said. "If Lebed goes, I will lead a

14th Army's control could fall into the hands of the Dnestr Republic's leaders.

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Med 400 arraller ionar bombs ha mica om m di Reuler That led to a v





the arrives Smoke pours from the wreckage of a Korean Airlines (KAL) Airbus 300 after it crashed and burst into flames on landing at the arrives of the state of

Tanghagen S. Korean aircraft crashes; all 160 escape

the San Line 1 SEOUL (R) — A domestic hospital," he said.

Ornia carrying 160 people

He said seven of the said seven of Ornia, Eight strak carrying 160 people Katanda gave washed and burst into flames in Copenham on a South Korean island neither to be Wednesday when it tried to Okapi as peaks and in rainstorms but all on werely to discound also by plane, an airline spokesman plane, an airline spokesman ale effect at 21 5

excitable at the Korean Au annual se antelionet in bus A300-600R was unbaig anteloperate bus A300 outer was Sweeping Cheju Island as it was touching down and skidsmen land ded ou the west send caught ded off the west runway, hit Eraliandog fire, he said.

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The plane stopped 100 metres of the sea. The plane stopped within All 160 passengers and crew managed to leave by the (E) (E) - scape chutes just after the

sincraft crashed, he said. "Cabin crew could only Mars Man open one emergency exit bewin fall by a cause of flames and the tilting o salet lant position of the plane but it legal rollie look only a few minutes for John Georgia everyone to leave," one offig concer is read said, quoting a crew

but beiere bei member.

He said seven of those treated were passengers and one the co-pilot. Earlier reports said most of those hurt were

"Everyone was overwhelmed with panic and without the crewmembers' cool and orderly guidance the situation would have been messy and escape difficult," passenger Bae Ke-Dong told the Yonkap Domestic News Agency.

Television pictures showed the aircraft in flames in a field at the edge of Cheju Airport, completely destroyed apart from its cockpit and pale blue tail bearing the airline's logo.

"I heard several bangs in succession only minutes after passengers escaped from the a witness said on plane. television.

Television pictures showed several small explosions and a large fireball rising from the

in made sure by in hospital for minor injuries second serious accident this year involving the A300-600, the Very but no one was admitted to year involving the A300-600.

according to data from manufacturer Airbus Industrie. In the first fatal accident for this type of plane in its 10 years of service, 264 people died on April 26 when an A300-600R of Taiwan's China Airlines came down at

Nagoya, Japan. The KAL plane was delivered in February 1991, Air-

The KAL spokesman blamed the disaster on strong winds caused by typhoon Doug approaching the resort island off the southern coast of the Korean peninsula, but a Transport Ministry official said the plane overshot its landing mark and did not have enough runway length.

"The plane failed to secure enough runway distance, and tried to take off again but failed. Its right wing hit the airport fences to start a fire," the ministry official said. The exact cause of the was being investi-

South Korea's Meteorological Office had warned that typhoon Doug was affecting added.

and honeymoon resort, before the crash took place. "The plane was shaking

Cheiu, a popular vacation

badly and I felt as if I was plunging when it tried to land," passenger Kim Kyong-Shik told Yonhap.

"Shortly after the landing gear touched down, the front part of the plane lifted up. I thought the plane was veering off the runway and then I saw flames rising with a bang," he said.

Television pictures showed fire trucks showering foam onto the plane to douse the flames.

Initial reports had said there were 150 people aboard but the airline subsequently revised this to 152 passengers and eight crew.

Eelevan Japanese passengers on board the Airbus, which was on a domestic route from Seoul, escaped unhurt, the KAL spokesman said. The remaining passengers were South Korean, but the pilot was Canadian, he

Chechen assembly backs state of war, general mobilisation call

MOSCOW (AFP) - Dele- unilaterally declared indegates to an assembly in Chechenya asked President Dzhokhar Dudayev Wednesday to declare a state of war in the republic and order a general mobilisation to counter "Russian aggression," ITAR-TASS said.

The appeal was backed by delegates from nine of Chechnya's 17 regions, all of which were represented at a special "Congress of Chechen People" which opened in the Chechen capit-

al, Grozny, the report said. Mr. Dudayev said earlier he would order a general mobilisation of Chechen's male population if the congress gave the go-ahead, Interfax News Agency re-

ITAR-TASS said the delegates from nine regions of the republic called on Mr. Dudavev to order "immediately a state of war throughout the territory of the republic."

They also called for the "mobilisation of the male population and to organise all necessary means for repelling the aggression by the Russian

Tension mounted Wednesday in the mountainous republic, which Mr. Dudavev

pendent from Russia in 1991. a move recognised by no one.

The opposition movement, which Mr. Dudayev accuses of being orchestrated by Moscow, told Interfax that it had elected Ali Alavdinov, a former businessman, to head the "provisional council," or opposition government.

The council was based inthe northwest Chechen town of Nadterechny and had organised patrols with armoured vehicles in the area to guarantee security for council members, Interfax

Ruslan Khasbulatov, the former Russian parliament speaker who led last year's armed revolt in Moscow, announced in a newspaper interview Wednesday he had returned to his native Chechenya to broker a peace settlement.

According to the official daily Izvestia, Mr. Khasbulatov was given a hero's welcome, including a 200-car motorcade, when he returned to his homeland Monday.

He met with opposition members in Moscow Monday and told Izvestia that he would "urge the republic's democratic forces to trust'

Cossack authorities in the

Stavropol region meanwhile denied reports that Cossack forces were massing on the Russian side of the border with Chechenya.

Interfax separately quoted a Russian counterintelligence service source as saying that Moscow was not considering sending troops into Chechenya, despite recent Russian declarations that the republic must be stay out of politics, brought back under Moscow's control. A spokesman for the Rus-

sian government denied that Mr. Khasbulatov had any official mandate to negotiate a political settlement in the breakaway Caucasus republic and described his presence there as "essentially private." "You would have to ask

Khasbulatov himself what he is doing there." the spokeswoman said. Chechen officials have also

denied plans to take up Mr. Khasbulatov's offer of mediation and the former parliament speaker made clear he supported the opposition's demands for Mr. Dudayev to

"It is necessary to win Dudayev's voluntary resignation, guaranteeing him secur-

ity in the future," Mr. Khasbulatov stated. He added that no deployment of Russian troops in the republic would be needed to resolve the cri-

Despite questions on his intentions and usefulness. Mr. Khasbulatov's remarks to Izvestia nonetheless marked his return to the Russian political fray just six months after he was freed from prison and vowed to

Mr. Khasbulatov, an allyturned-enemy of President Boris Yeltsin, was also known as a strong political opponent of Mr. Dudayev and was accused by the Chechen leader several times in recent years of organising armed provocations in the

The former parliament speaker however remains popular in Chechenya.

On Tuesday Russia put troops in areas near the Chechen border on a higher state of alert and earlier this week cut off all air links with the republic.

Chechenya, one of 89 "subjects" that make up the Russian Federation, unilaterally declared its independence in 1991.

S. Africa sees alarming rise in crime

JOHANNESBURG (R) — More than 50 people were murdered every day in South Africa during the first quarter of the year, which saw an alarming rise in violent crime including rape, police said

Wednesday.

In a country of 40 million people which already had one of the world's highest murder rates, the number of murders soared by nearly 650 to 4,849 during the first three months

WASHINGTON (Agencies)
--- President Bill Clinton said

Tuesday he would not object

to Russian peacekeeping forces in the disputed terri-

tory of Nagorno-Karabakh if

the two sides in the conflict

Armenians and Azerbai-

start of an Oval Office meet-

ing with Armenian President

want," he said, referring to

the parties to the dispute, the

longest-running of any of the

conflicts in the old Soviet

"If the parties agree to it,

and there were clear CSCE

(Conference on Security and

Cooperation in Europe) safe-

Mr. Clinton spoke at the

ianis - agree to it.

Levon Ter-Petrosvan.

Union.

compared to the same period in 1993. Most of the killers

rapes, robberies and burglaries also rocketed in the countdown to the country's first all-race elections in April.

The number of robberies rose to 23,274 compared to 21.365 in the first quarter of 1993, and rapes rose by 1,109

have been killed in six-and-a-

half years of fighting over

Karabakh, a mainly

Armenian-populated terri-

tory inside Azerbaijan. The

fighting started after the re-

gion declared its independ-

ence from Azerbaijan in 1988

and sought unification with

teers to fight in the rugged

While crime levels were generally lower during the April election month, police spokesman Major Burger Van Rooyen said he expected the first quarter rise to continue through the rest of the year as short-staffed police battled the explosion in

Maj. Van Rooyen offered no reason for the sharp rise, saying: "I'm no criminolog-

Lloyd Vogelman, director of the Centre for the Study of Violence at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. said easy access to smuggled weapons, the low value of human life in a South Africa inured to year of political violence, and the dehumanising effect of apartheid in deprived black communities were among factors.

Criminals believe crime does pay in South Africa.

U.N. threatens Bosnian rivals with air strikes

romant le light l inistered bytto. SARAJEVO (R) - The Unne ited Nations said Wednesday or his section it had threatened both Boscomment and rebel Serb forces with NATO air 3613 133 Fighting within Sarajevo's

xons-exchision zone. Elsewhere in Bosnia. senaratist Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, facing military depost in the northwestern Bostote made et bian enclave of Bihac after a single tank shell killed his two commander, vowed ies and Act to stay with his people in their fight for autonomy. the same Sats and Muslims used the

cone name banned beavy weapons in battles for the Visoko-Breza The same region within the northern es have during part of the 20-kilometres of a Broker zone around Saraievo over police spite the weekend, prompting a me local marring from zobbeiv Lieutenant-General Sir the taby ou to Michael Rose, the U.N. com-

sam posia. date the ft. The United Nations estimated 400 artillery shells and morter bombs had hit within · and just outside the exclusion zone in the past 24 hours. "There has been heavy shelling... the firing coming from both sides." U.N.

spokeswoman Claire Grimes told Renters. · . "That led to a warning shot

NATO aircraft would be over the area and if the shelling continued he would use all necessary measures to stop it. including air power," she said.

It was the first known occasion on which the Muslim-led. Bosnian army has been threatened with air strikes. NATO warplanes have attacked Serb targets three times, most recently last Fri-day when they knocked out a Bosnian Serb M-18 anti-tank gun to punish the Serbs for snatching back heavy

weapons from a U.N. compound in Sarajevo. The Bosnian Serbs have come under increasing military pressure from Muslim forces and have lost ground. The Muslims are believed

to be taking advantage of a rift between the Bosnian Serbs and their backers in Belgrade. Serbian-led Yugoslavia last week broke off relations with

the Bosnian Serbs because of their continued rejection of an international peace plan to end the 28-month Bosnian

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic hopes that by cutting off the Bosnian Serbs

sanctions to force the Serbs to accept the peace plan.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicate Washington would agree with efforts by its European allies to offer an easing of sanctions grade, analysts said. on Belgrade as a way of getting Serbia to bear down on Bosnian Serb leaders.

"If there is a substantial period of ennorcement, of the intention that was expressed, if the border was effectively closed and if the Bosnian Serbs seem to be deprived of important aid and war-making material, clearly there then would be a case for easing sanctions," he

told reporters. Serbian authorities in Belgrade, apparently stepping up pressure on the Bosnian Serbs, are now blocking U.N. relief convoys trying to cross into Serb-held areas of Bosnia, U.N. officials said.

But the Bosnian Serbs remained defiant and their chief Radovan Karadzic said: "Serbia faces new humiliations by continuing with further appearement.

He suggested Serbia might allow international monitors to be placed on the Bosnian

from General Rose that he can avoid tougher U.N. border to enforce the block-

If Mr. Milosevic did agree to allow international monitors on the Serbian-Bosnian for the first time that border, major powers would seriously have to consider ine sanctions a

Despite their isolation, the Bosnian Serbs have remained defiant and say they will look ahead with a referendum on Aug. 27-28, which is expected to reject the peace

In northwest Bosnia, in a series of offensives in the last few weeks, the government Fifth Corps captured several key towns and sent several thousand civilians and armed rebel Muslim soldiers fleeing for safety across the border into the Serb-held Croatian

territory. Although having lost half of the territory, rebel leader Fikret Abdic swore to fight on: "I will stay with my people to fight for autonomy... we cannot be defeated, we are unbeatable."

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Abdic said the Serbs let the refugee and soldiers cross back to Bosnia near his Velika Kladusa stronghold Tuesday.

and victims were black. Police said the number of

Clinton would not mind Russian troops in Karabakh to invite the Russian troops in without CSCE oversight.

> at Mr. Clinton's right in his first visit with the U.S. president, told reporters his government wanted "the soonest establishment of peace." "I think that the most important in this issue is the establishment of peace and

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, seized

Armenians are not formalnot who will do that," Mr. ly involved in the war, which Ter-Petrosvan said. began while both Armenia Mr. Clinton said and Azerbaijan were part of happy that the parties had the now-defunct Soviet Unagreed to a ceasefire and ion. But Yerevan provides were talking directly. "What logistic and diplomatic supwe want is to have a peace port to the Karabakh Armeand we want to then help nians and allows its volunrebuild Armenia, and to sup-

entire area," he said. Mr. Clinton told reporters Russia has offered a peace the United States would have a "very significant aid package" for Armenia this year, but gave no details.

To date, the U.S. has contributed \$335 million in

port the development of the

cluding \$305 million in humanitarian assistance and \$30 million in technical assist-

Officials said the per capita level of U.S. assistance to Armenia is the highest of all the newly independent states that emerged from the former Soviet Union.

Meanwhile a leading Armenian politician said Tuesday, a long-delayed peace accord between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh should be ready by the end of August.

The planned "global agreement" could be signed on Aug. 30, "signalling the end of the war" over the Armenian-majority enclave in Azerbaijan, said the president of the Armenian Parliament Babken Ararksian during a visit to the northern Russian city of Saint Peters-

Kashmir rebels lift 'ban' on Hindu pilgrimage

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) - Kashmir's most powerful ium guerrilla group said Wednesday it was lifting its "ban" on Hindu pilgrimage to the Himalayan state. The Hizbul Mujahideen said it had asked other militant organisations to drop

Cave which began Wednes-The "ban" was originally imposed on July 6 by the Harkat-Ul-Ansar, another guerrilla group with many Islamic mercenaries in its ranks, to protest the presence

their plans to sabotage the

pilgrimage to the Amarnath

of troops outside the Hazarbai Mosque in Srinagar. The Indian government removed the troops from the mosque, Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine, at the Weekend.

In a statement, the Hizbul Mujahideen said it had decided to dissociate itself from the "ban" after an appeal from the Jamaat-e-Islami, its political wing.

It said a committee coordivating Muslim militant groups had been informed of the decision "so that other organisations also lift the ban

so that Hindus can peform religious rituals without any

hurdles.' Analysts said the group's example was expected to be followed by other guerrilla Muslim guerrillas killed a

policeman when they hurled a grenade Wednesday at Hindu devotees during the annual festival in Kashmir, witnesses said. Six other officers were in-

jured in the attack in Srinagar's fortified police reception centre where 25 Hindu pilgrims were lodged since their arrival from New Delhi, witnesses said.

Security has been further tightened following the attack in the state summer capital and urban hub of an anti-Indian rebellion raging in Kashmir. The grenade attack came

hours after thousands of. troops fanned out on a highway and moved in artillery to guard Hindus determined to make the pilgrimage. A first batch of 500 Hindus set off Wednesday from Jam-

mu for a secured camp in

Udhampur, the first leg of

the pilgimage to the sacred caves in Amarnath in southern Kashmir, officials said in the state's winter capital.

The nervous devotees did not chant customary religious hymns as commandoes scanned their buses for bombs and booby-traps, witnesses Ten Westerners, including

two French students and a

German, accompanied the

Hindus saying they might visit Amarnath after a trip to Stinagar. Officials said "foolproof" security arrangements have been made to thwart possible attacks on Hindu devotees who would travel 320 kilometres from Jammu to

Amarnath. Jammu's Chief Administrator D.R. Kundal said five army battalions, six battlions of paramilitary troops and 4,000 policemen comprising 15,000 men have been deployed along the 300kilometre (180-mile) route from Jammu to Amarnath.

The army also deployed

medium artillery and battle

tanks and secured hilltops

along the route to prevent possible attacks by outlawed

Kashmiri separatists. Military helicopters would also reinforce the ground forces and the armour deployed along the route to the Amarnath caves, which Hindus believe to be the abode of Shiva, the God of destruction according to Hinduism.

Officials said they have made arrangements to house and guard up to 100,000 people scheduled to visit the ice caves from Aug. 16. Kashmir is the only

Muslim-majority state in predominantly-Hindu India. Nearty 10,000 people have been killed since Muslim militants launched their campaign for secession in 1989. Hindu radicals in Bombay Tuesday issued counterthreats, warning they would disrupt Muslim pilgrimage

from India to Mecca in case

Amarnath pilgrims were

harmed in the Himalayan

state bordering Pakistan. Meanwhile an Indian minister told parliament Wednesday a total of 1,306 people have died and hundreds of others were injured or abducted in violence-torn Kashmir in the first seven months of the year.

guards so that we had the initiative in Nagorno-Karabakh involving a Rusright sort of oversight in the process, and the parties agree sian security force to separate to it, then the United States the warring sides. Armenia and the Karabakh Armenians have accepted the idea, but

Several thousand people

would not object," Mr. Clin-

Azerbaijan has been loathe assistance to Armenia, in-U.S., Cuba offer different accounts of boat hijacking

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Cuba informed the U.S. government that one of its boats was hijacked by unknown assailants who killed navy officer, but U.S. officials said the killing might not have taken place. The Coast Guard intercepted the ship Tuesday about 60 miles southwest of Key

West late Tuesday, and a Coast Guard spokesman said there was no evidence based on initial interviews that anyone was killed when the boat was taken. A total of 26 Cubans were on board the vessel, none of

them armed, the Coast Lieutenant Commander Steven Banks said the report from Cuba "might be a mis-

take" and that it is possible

no one was killed. Lt.-Gen. Banks told the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel the man Cuban officials said was killed really the hijacker, the daily reported Wednesday.

But Cuba demanded that

the United States return the hijackers, saying they had killed a Cuban navy lieutenant and forced four sailors off the ship when they commandeered the vessel docked in the port of Mariel.

send back these hijackers because this is a crime," said Rafael Dausa, political officer of the Cuban Interest Section in Washington. A State Department spokesman said earlier the

Cubans would be quizzed ab-

"The United States should

out the hijacking and if anyone onboard was involved they could be detained. Mr. Dansa said the hijack-



is stand on the deck of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Monhagan as crewmen dock the ship at the Key West Coast Guard Station. The group is part of a group of 68 Cubans rescued

earlier in the Florida Straights by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard also has intercepted a Cuban vessel that was hijacked from the Cuban port of Mariel carrying at least 26

people (AFP photo)

ers left port Monday afternoon, stopped to pick up passengers and then headed for the United States, 90 miles (140 kilometres) away. It was the fifth hijacking of

rying more than 60 people, 30 of whom drowned. Cuban President Fidel Castro threatened Friday to allow Cubans to flood into the United States if the U.S. government did not crack down on illegal immigration

a Cuban vessel since the July

13 sinking of a tugboat car-

by Cuban refugees. Mr. Castro warned of an exodus similar in scale to the Mariel boatlift when about 128,000 Cubans, among them convicted criminals and mental patients, took to boats and

fled Cuba in 1980. Drastic food shortages and

deteriorating living conditions compounded by the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, Cuba's main economic partner, have fuelled popular discontent towards the Castro regime.

Record numbers of Cubans have fled the Carribean island this year on rafts and boats.

The Clinton administration has prepared plans to blockade the straits separating Cuba from Florida to thwart a threatened governmentsanctioned exodus, the Washington Post reported in

But the White House believes that President Castro will not carry out his threat, the paper said.

Wednesday's editions.

The United States has received "what we take to be

assurances" from the Cuban government that an organised, government-induced exodus is not being planned, a senior administration official was quoted as saying.

"We believe, and have had external indications to this effect, that something similar to (the 1980) Mariel (boatlift) is not going to happen," the official was quoted.

But "you can assume that we would be ready to respond" if it did, the official added.

The Washington Post said a U.S. government task force, formed at the end of last week, has "dusted off" contingency plans to blockade the Florida Straits to keep boats from leaving Florida and to head off boats departing Cuba.

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

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Commission for the future

THE ROYAL commission, with whose establishment His Majesty the King entrusted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan yesterday, is as serious and promising a step as any that can be taken by Jordan to prepare for the new era of peace. A speedy beginning to implementing the objectives outlined in the Royal letter would not only be a fitting present to the leader on the 42nd anniversary of his Accession to the Throne. It would also be the herald of a historic phase in running the affairs of the state in our new world.

It is probably too early to attempt exact definition of the scope and mechanism of the planned commission's work. It is not premature, however, to describe its stated aims as crucial ingredients for building post-peace modern Jor-

Take, in this context, the need to prepare the country for receiving foreign investors and their investments, whether on the private or public sector levels, in terms of law or bureaucratic applications, and the inevitable conclusion would be: There is much that can and should be done to meet the target. Putting the right person in the right place, on the other hand, and stamping out corruption and graft, are essential for our development and progress, whether in attracting foreign investments or increasing our people's own confidence in themselves and their system of

But above all, it is the new "environment" that His Majesty stressed in his letter, in which a national collective sense would be created to activate and widen the circle of participation and excellence in the whole national effort, that should set our sights on what is truely required.

"In this context and emanating from my concern that our smooth transition towards the zew phase is not in anyway obstructed, and knowing that to enter such a phase would require us to have fulfilled the imperatives of democratisation based on adherence to the Constitution, the National Charter and law, that I entrust you with assuming the responsibility for carrying out the preparations for such a drive," the King wrote to the Crown Prince, leaving nobody in any doubt about the parameters that will have to govern the country's fresh move towards readying itself for the future.

By entrusting His Royal Highness the Crown Prince with forming and heading the commission, His Majesty was signalling not only his seriousness about the work that lies ahead and needs to be done as we proceed towards a new era in the modern history of Jordan and the region as a whole. The King was also sending a clear and loud message to our people. It is that the time has come finally to abandon the quest for survival in favour of fighting the battle of modernisation and progress. This will be done, it is well understood, by respecting the rules of democracy, transparency and the law. And the new march will be pursued with determination and vigour, as indeed it should be done.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the resumption of Jordanian-Israeli talks at Wadi Araba and the Dead Sea, Al Dustour daily said that the talks constitute another constructive step Newards the implementation of the Washington declaration. The declaration has provided a framework for the two sides to work out formulas for ensuring the success of the peace process, said the daily. Had it not been for the courageous stand of His Majesty King Hussein and the wise steps he had taken to pave the ground for peace, nothing could have been achieved, said the paper. Most important, the paper said, the King's wise leadership enjoys the support of all the Jordanian people who are keen on backing their leader's steps and his bold moves towards regaining the nation's usurped rights. As we witness the enthusiastic welcome of the King's steps as has been displayed by the various public sectors, our-self confidence is enhanced and our aspirations for a better future increase. said the paper. The talks at Wadi Araba and the Dead Sea. the paper added, can be seen as steps towards implementing the Washington declaration last month and inevitable stages leading towards a just peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Wednesday criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's attitudes with regard to the Palestine National Authority. Mr. Rabin has been claiming that delay in withdrawing Israeli forces from the West Bank was caused by the delay in arranging for municipal councils elections, said Mohammad Kawash. But Mr. Rabin has failed to note the difficulties hampering the elections created by the Israeli authorities. How can the Palestine National Authority prepare for elections under the Israeli rule where no freedom of movement is granted to the local population? asked the writer.

The View From Academia

Higher education, prestige and social chaos

IN OUR society, like in many others, education is viewed as a means to various ends, some noble and admirable and some not. Different people seek education for different purposes: Some for moral or intellectual development, some for knowledge, some for a fulfilling career, some for a well-paying job, some for a better social status and some for prestige. The latter purpose, which is the least noble and admirable, is unfortunately quite widespread in our part of the world at present, especially with respect to higher

Look, for example, at the social sections in our Arabic daily newspapers, particularly the congratulatory notes and ages people exchange on the occasions of students passing majors exams (such as the tawjihi, the comprehensive at the end of two years of community-college education, etc.) or graduation from the university. What function do such notes and messages serve? It is a way of telling your kid, brother/sister, friend, or neighbour that you really care and that you are happy for his or her success—i.e. is it merely an expression of feelings of love and support for the concerned person? Maybe. But could not such feelings be better conveyed face-to-face or privately? Does the whole world have to know about my feelings for my kid, brother/sister, friend or neighbour? Or are these notes and messages a way perhaps, in these times of high unemployment figures, of telling the employers that the person you are congratulating is now available and ready for a glorious career? I doubt it, for very few employers bother to look at these pages, and employment is better sought through more appropriate and effective channels.

It seems to me that the real motive behind the publication of such notes and messages, whether the act is done consciously or unwittingly, is pure show off. People do it, and therefore we have to do it. My neighbour congratulated his son; I have to congratulate my son. It is a decadent social habit, like so many decadent social habits with which we have been recently cursed. We publicise our test results and certificates because in our society it is prestigious to pass tests and acquire certificates.

Notice in particular the last sentence at the end of each note or message, a sentence which has become both a cliché and a must: "Wa 'Ukbal Al-Doctourah." Translated roughly, the sentence reads something like, "May you obtain a PhD" or, "Wishing you a PhD." You wish someone a merry Christmas, good health, happiness, recovery from illness, success, etc. But a PhD? The way I understand it, a PhD. is simply a specialised degree in a very narrow sphere of learning, allowing a certain person to know more about an area within a field more than other people. Inherently, a doctorate does not make its holder morally better, intellectually better or financially better than others. For the most important works in society, one does not need a PhD. Why then this fascination, this obsession with it? Why do we wish it to every graduate? Quite simply, it is because people think it is fashionable and prestigious — like wearing a suit from Van Gils, like driving a Mercedes 500, or like holding a wedding at the Inter. Continental Hotel.

I saw a former student of mine the other day. He was extremely upset because he was not admitted to the graduate programme at Jordan University. When I asked him about what specific programme he wished to join, he said: "Anything. It does not matter." When I tried to calm him down and reason with him a little, saying maybe he would be accepted next year, he answered: "How long am I going to wait? I feel terrible. All of my friends have been acco some have already graduated with a masters or a PhD." These two answers, which during my 10 years of close encounter with higher education I have heard hundreds of times, are indicative of the kind of attitude or motive people in our society hold with regard to higher education

I am all for personal freedom, and I am all for freedom of choice. Individuals have the right to pursue any activity or specialty they feel comfortable with or see fit. No one has the right to slight or make fun of their choices. We are all the product of our own mode of thinking and our own sense of what is appropriate and what is not. We should therefore wear Van Gils, drive a Mercedes 500, or hold a wedding at the Inter. Continental, if this is what we really want. In education, we are entitled to pursue any higher degree in any realm of learning, no matter how whimsical or nonsensical such realm may at first seem, if we so feel.

But the "if" is crucial here. What I am against is the arbitrariness, haphazardness or mindlessness of choices. In my opinion, there is a big difference between conscious choices (i.e. knowing precisely what we want and why we want something) and impulsive or imitative behaviour. As

evident from the two responses of the student above, which are representative of what comfortable majority in our society thinks of higher education, most decisions about higher education on part of individuals in our part of the world are impulsive and imitative. We are not sure about what we want ("anything"), and we are letting our decisions be influenced almost entirely by the choices others make

("my friends have all been accepted").

This is a problem. I agree with Ralph Waldo Emerson
"Imitation is suicide." Two negative consequences of our arbitrary decisions about higher education need to be asserted here. A) If we follow in the steps of our elders and peers blindly, what about our own ability and our own talent? Should not we choose a sphere or area we are qualified to compete and excel in? No wonder there is so much mediocrity of performance in our society and so much waste of talent. B) Where is the element of planning? How far are the choices made by people in our society, in their hot pursuit of higher education, actually affected by our plans? We have more engineers than we know what to do with, so many graduates of journalism, psychology, political science, Arabic literature, etc. By contrast, we have very few truly qualified mechanics, technicians, carpenters, teachers who can teach, civil servants who can serve, etc. In a word, our parents and our educators have generally failed to help us discover our talent and to direct our ability and potential. The result is disorder and confusion in the minds of the many students majoring in specialties they happen to have chosen and in the daily life of the social institutions they will soon join or they have already joined.

Absolute freedom is absolute chaos. Our educational institutions (the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Council, the schools, and the universities) have to come up with a mechanism thereby they provide help for students, enabling them as early as possible to detect their talents and to offer them some more tangible guidelines as to the spheres or disciplines which they and their society truly value. Choices about higher education have to be made on the basis of the following three criteria, collectively: 1) What one really likes or wants, 2) What one is good at, and 3) What society needs and wants.

It is time for us, individuals and institutions alike, to take our decisions a little more seriously and rationally.

'Asian' values don't bear scrutiny The claims about

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — Singapore (population 2.8 million) has some of the world's harshest laws against smoking and other 'anti-social" activities such as chewing gum. In Indonesia (population 180 million), it was recently claimed that culture factors would make it very hard to enforce any anti-smoking measures.

Muhammad Budyatna of the University of Indonesia said the local culture expected people to be accommodative and indirect, "to display empathy, to understand what others want or do not want." Most Eastern cultures were the same, he said, and offered a contrast to Western norms.

Over in Singapore, barely a day passes without a er proclaiming the superiority of "Asian values" over those of the decadent West. Reference is often made to discipline and the commitment to group social values, the rights of the community over those of the individual. These plus a commitment

to family cohesion, education and saving are said to explain the social and economic progress made by Asia in the last 30 years. The lack or decay of such attributes in the West is seen as the cause of drugtaking, pornography, divorce and violent crime, these ills in turn come exacerbated by a permissive attitude to law enforce-

But while some ills in the West are plain enough, are they Western? Do the "Asian values" exist, and are they reflected better by the Singaporean or the Indonesian smoking anecdotes?

It is certainly hard to quarrel with the role that education has played in Asian development. Particularly in East Asia and among those people who have combined a Confucian heritage of belief in the dignity of learning with a non-Confucian belief in social mobility, learning directed to practical ends -

in particular, engineering — has been the sine qua non. The desire to be top of the class has been a powerful stimulus to excellence at home and competitiveness abroad. Yet it would be pushing

the argument too hard to say that belief in educational excellence is so much stronger even in Taiwan than in Germany, or that its role in social mobility is so much greater in Japan than in the United States. Among the best of East and West, motivation and expectations may not be the same, but the value put on education may not be so

As for motivation seen in the likes of South Korea and Hong Kong, it may have as much to do with threat in one case and migrant mentality in the other. In other parts of Asia the

picture is very mixed. The Philippines may have little in the way of excellence, but it does have a worthy achievement in basic literacv. Likewise Indonesia. Malaysia and Thailand. In fact, they have much better records than China, despite its aeons of Confucian civilisation. Once ideology took precedence over learning. Now it is money grab-

As for India or Pakistan, they make Africa look like a centre of literacy achievement. Pakistan is neck and neck with Mozambique (65 per cent illiterate) at the bottom of the scale; India vies with Rwanda (50 per cent), and China with Zambia and Kenya (27 per cent). China and India, of course, both have islands of excellence. But commitment to education other than of a few?

What then of social cohesion and group rather than individual values? Can one find Asian common denominators and compare them with the West?

The social strengths and weaknesses of Norway are a world apart from Spain or the United States, which is regarded in Asia as the Western norm although in fact it represents the best and worst of the West.

Crime rates and safety in cities give very erratic readings east and west. Japan's order and self-discipline grow out of the social fabric rather than being imposed from above. But disciplined and dynamic South Korea has as much crime as an average big city in Europe. Dynamic, homogeneous Thailand is a byword for often violent lawlessness. China becomes more so by

the day. In impoverished Indian cities the problem is disorganisation and mayhem, not violent crime. Despite the diversity and lack of discipline, social cohesion exists most of the time.

What then of the theory that Asia is group-rather than individual-oriented, and thus more inclined to put group interests before selfish ones?

It is easy to make for this in Japan and South Korea, where loyalties tend to transcend family as well as individual. Postwar. Americanised Japan has known frequent changes of leader within a stable ststem. In Indonesia (two presidents in 45 years), the leader is on a pedestal, but, as in Japan, the notion of consensus runs deep. Even the late, megalomanic President Sukarno had to admit: "I have made myself the meeting place of all trends and ideologies."
In the Chinese case, his-

tory almost seems to consist of a battle between the corporatist needs of the state and the interets of the families who operate it. Dynastic politics is evident in "Communist" China already, as in Singapore despite official commitments to bureaucratic meritocracy. Similarly with the Kuomintang inheritance in Taiwan, which won out until 1987, when lack of candidates and the pressure of opinion ended the Sun Yatsen and Chiang Kai-shek

Rulers who come to power in this manner can be effective in the same way as genuine monarchs, placing the common interests of state and society above sectional ones. But in much of

dynamic Asia, claims to ethical superiority over the tawdry vote-buying implicit in democratic politics claims that leaders put group interests before personal ones, or national ones over individuals' rights --are questionable. In China, Indonesia and

Malaysia, just as previously in the Philippines, grant of monopolies to family and friends and "legal" purioining by well-placed individuals of assets owned by the government or in trust for certain groups have become so common-place as to be scarcely worthy of attention, even when the losers are listed companies.

This wealth distribution may have all kinds of useful functions in creating capitalist classes (albeit rentier ones) where none existed before. It may be a sign of a dynamic and mobile economy, just as England was probably never more corrupt than during the 18thcentury flowering of commerce, empire and intellect. But it is not the sort of behaviour that warrants a claim to "values."

East Asia has both some of the best (in Japan and South Korea) and some of the most venal bureaucracies. There are lessons for other countries in the constructive but wary relationship between bureaucracy and business. On the other hand, the relative decline of the quality and influence of the Thai bureaucracy shows how money can overwhelm institutions. Is that dynamism or social decay?

It is one of the paradoxes of the "Asian values" talk that the economic achievements of the region have in fact been accompanied by — or even caused by breakdown of old social strictures and values systems under the impact of foreign influence, but it overseas Chinese entrepreneurship, mass media or McDonalds.

Those who see straitlaced Singapore as the epitome of 'Asian values'' may not have stayed in anything less than a five star botel in Japan; in most other hotels,

porno movies are on tap. Or may not have wondered why the most dynamic areas of Asia, which at present include the cities of Guangdong, to give just one of many examples, exhibit levels of prostitution far ahead of anything in Europe, and drug problems that are serious even in countries with draconian penalties for possession.

In many countries, explicit sex many be kept off movie screens, but mainstream print media in countries like Malaysia are more direct about sex than their U.S. counterparts were until very recently.

The family has so far survived as the linchpin of society throughout the continent. It is a reasonable generalisation that family solidarity Asia is much stronger than the average for the West.

The relatively low incidence of divorce and singleparent families may not reflect superior sexual morality, but it does have important consequences for social stability and for limiting welfare demands on the state. Indeed, the strength of the family is sometimes at the expense of the interests of the state, which is often viewed - especially in China — with suspicion, to be avoided if it cannot be exploited.

The emphasis on family

or group obligations over individual rights is real enough in Singapore or South Korea, but it is a hollow claim in places where money-making is praised above all thought of the social or environmental impact on the nation or the family needs of workers. The welfarism of Scandinavia, so derided in much of Asia, might be a better exemplar of the primacy of the perceived needs of society over the rights of the individual than much of Asia can offer.

With industrialisation relatively new to most of Asia, the longer-range social consequences have yet to show themselves. These countries have yet to confront the problems of an aging population, which

will hit more suddenly than they did in Europe. Meanwhile, there is an unstoppable trend to unit-

ary families wherever there is enough money for each generation to be housed separately. Will family commitment in, say, Taiwan, prove much more effective than in Italy in protecting the old? East Asia has the oppor-

mistakes of older industrialised societies, but how much is yet to be seen. As for politics, it is as absurd to say that modern concepts of electoral democracy are un-Asian as to say

that fascism is un-Euro

tunity to learn from the

There is no single model in politics, any more than there is in economics. Those in power naturally believe that the system which keeps them there is the best.

In many countries in Asia there has been and remains great pressure to enlarge the system of representation, although the means may vary and common denominators may be few. That explains perhaps why within Asia, even among those regarded in the West as most liberal and democratic, there is resentment at Western criticisms of their neighbours. Hence Thailand's attitude towards Western human rights pressure on Burma and South Korea's towards that on China.

It is not hard to see why any country would resent having its system, however inadequate, criticised by American congressmen or commentators. The words Asian.

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It may be possible to identify a few values more prevalent in parts of Asia than in the West. And vice versa. The same applies to vices. But the simplisitic labels "Western" and "Asian" usually obscure the specifics of each country and situation, enabling all sides to substitute moralising for morality and propaganda for principles.

International Herald Tri-

Korea nuclear deal possible, if the price is right

By Philippe Nanghton Reuter

GENEVA — An agreement between North Korea and the United States ending the nuclear stand-off in East Asia could finally be on the cards, but Pyongyang's price for such a deal has still to be negotiated.

Bilateral talks in Geneva took a significant step forward late on Monday when North Korea offered to freeze the construction of its graphite nuclear reactors and switch to a system less capable of producing nuclear weapons material.

North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju said he had also proposed ways of handling some 8,000 spent uranium fuel rods to "ease the concerns of the international community."

Experts say the rods could provide weapon -grade plutonium if they are reprocessed by the North Koreans themselves.

Only a month after the death of North Korea's "great leader" Kim Ilwasung, the North Korean proposals could signal a new approach from the world's last Stalinist state. But the details of the

proposals are still not clear and any eventual deal could prove very costly, diplomats said. Announcing North

Korea's readiness to replace the graphite reactor, Mr. Kang said the north was only willing to switch technologies if we are given the more expensive light water system in return. Kang also said North

Korea would need "proper and appropriate compensa-tion" for freezing the construction of other graphite reactors it is building, a demand he said was "most reasonable."

Assistant U.S. Secretary

of State Robert Gallucci, heading the U.S. delega-tion, said the North Korean proposals were certainly worthy of consideration. He spoke for the first time of progress, but gave no details on Mr. Kang's

proposals. Diplomats say the two most contentious questions remaining are firstly from where any light-water reactor would come and then

who would pay for it. al reasons, Pyongyang is said to be resisting a South

For political and technic-Korean offer to provide the technology and is instead pressing for a lightwater reactor from Russia. On a recent visit to Moscow, Mr. Gallucci discussed with Russian officials the possibility of Moscow's

help.

But with light-water systems costing several billion dollars, both South Korea and Japan are reluctant to bankroll the purchase of a Russian reactor.

At a previous round of Geneva talks in July 1953, North Korea agreed in principle to switch with U.S. help from graphite-moderated to light-water

Those talks collapsed. however, and tensions rose steadily on the Korean Peninsula as Pyongyang argued with the International Atomic Energy Agency over the Viennabased Watchdog's rights to inspect its nuclear facilities.

In June, when Pyongyang removed the spent uranium fuel rods from an experimental graphite reactor at Pyongyang, the row esca-lated and almost brought U.N. sanctions on North Korea, before a mediation visit by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter brought both sides back to the negotiating table.



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Looking forward to 14th Jerash Festival

By Mohammad Mashariqah

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It was late evening at the Jerash South Theatre. The members of the Old Socks theatre group who came from England to perform the Shakespeare's "The need to be Tempest" at the Jerash Festival were flickering around on the stage trying to fix their set according to design. One of the managers asked a Jerash administrator to and our own area we are der there is so bring instantly an engineer and designer to realise the ship construction. While they were discussing possibilities, one of the carpenters approached them and at both men's surprise stated in broken English that the

ship will be finalised by dawn.

"Are you an engineer?" asked the Englishman.

"No. sir, I am a carpenter," answered the carpenter. "How can you understand what he wants?" the lerash administrator asked him in Arabic.

What do you think, 13 years with the Jerash Festival gave me more experience than any newly graduated engineer could get from his books," the carpenter answered in a bedouin accent.

The next day the ship was handed to the English group and \$25,000 was saved for the shipment of the original one. It made me think, how could the Jerash Festival's services be improved and greater help offered to the experienced cadre to perform their jobs with less pressure and higher efficiency?

The Jerash Festival's organisational team does big

amount of details and follow ups which sometimes decreases their availability for developing new systems in work and quicker response to the upcoming

For this reason I believe that the Jerash Festival needs a larger organisational team with more sophisticated preliminary programme and much earlier termination deadlines for the preparatory phase. At least three months should be given for the realisation of the contractors' requirements, starting from accommodations, art and technical demands and promotion. To make the organisational aspect of the festival more efficient and successful, the realisation programme should be submitted to the contractors and local

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

parties involved in technical and organisational issues a month before the scheduled date of the Jerash Festival's opening, and it should comprise accurate dates and places of rehearsals, technical personnel in charge with their telephone numbers and their availability time.

As far as the promotional aspect is concerned, the festival should re-study its advertising policy, compromising between the modern means of the promotional communication and the local potentials for its application. The Jordanian experts in the field of art,



George Wassouf — the hen that laid the

information, psychology and tourism should be recruited and new strategy should be implemented in propagating the festival along with the Jordanian economy and tourism.

New advertising policy should be competent enough to secure financial backing for the festival. The local companies should be informed and approached in time before assigning their unnual advertising budgets, through a well-publicised campaign. In addition to the posters, brochures and other printed materials, more promotional space should be given within the archaeological site, where the companies could display their goods or announce them on specially designed electronic boards. The possibilities of marketing the festival at the international broadcasting marke: is vet another field of further exploration. Regarding aspects of the modern advertising policy, the festival would secure the financial stability and acquire its aspirations for selecting high standards for art and other events on the programme. Better financial balance also means accomplishing the international and local cultural tole and improving its significance in breeding a creative art movement in the area. Hence, this year, the Jerash Festival made a historic breakthrough by establishing the Gerasia Creativity Forum, which was designed to be a launch pad for genuine art experiments at home in the field of theatre, music, dance, painting, poetry and



other fields of the performing arts. For the first time, the Jetash Festival partially financed the productions. The result was a rich variety of original artwork. capable of competing on Arab and international levels. The productions of Mr. Tariffi, Mr. Horani, Mrs. Masharqa in the field of experimental theatre, music recital by Youssel Khashou, Waleed Hashim, Faculty X.Sahar Hattar, Abedo brothers and other outstanding experiments made by the painter Adnan Sharif and many musicians who accompanied poetry recitals on their instruments, is yet another encouragement to the festival to keep up this positive role in enhancing the local art movement. If the festival doesn't adhere to such policy, it will gradually evolve into an alies element in the society. That would be the real fiascc.

At the end we come to the conclusion that the Jerns's Festival deserves much greater concern of all sectors of society. It needs more efforts and deeper responsibility for maintaining and developing its cultural, historical. national and international role.



A member of the Spanish group performs at the Artemis Steps during the Jerash Festival

A scene from William Shakespeare's The Tempest

Al Al Bayt University — a highly refined institute devoted to the Ummah

By lan Atalla Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is sadly ironic that of all the world's great religions, Islam is the one, perhaps, which stresses most in its teachings the unity of mankind through God. For as the 20th century draws to a close, Islam is endangered as never before by sectarian strife

The youngest of the three Abrahamic faiths finds itself beset on all sides and rocked at its very base by both external and internal threats. Violent conflicts in Palestine, Bosnia and Kashmir with members of other faiths. Sunni-Shiite strife in several nations, and bitter feuding for authority over the state between Muslim fundamentalists and secularists are but a few of the

faces of this profound crisis. It is into this world that one of His Majesty King Hussein's most ambitious brainchildren, Al Al Bayt University, will enter when it opens its doors to students for the first time on Oct. 1 of this year.

When King Hussein first publicly spoke of his vision for this new Islamic school almost two years ago, his rhetoric was bold and at times outspoken. He called for the creation of Al Al Bayt University as an international forum where professors and students from throughout the Islamic World would gather, and attempt through their studies and research to forge a new harmony out of the diverse and often conflicting threads of native traditions and foreign influences which have impacted the Muslim Ummah, from the ancient times of its founding until the modern age of today. They would do so, the King said, "within an atmosphere of complete freedom of speech."

"Islam does not hide secret objectives used as camouflage to bring in political ideology or to achieve gains at the individual or factional levels," the King said at the time, in an obvious criticism of the many religious factions which vie for political leadership throughout the Ummah.

At the very beginning of the disasters and setbacks which have eaten away at the fabric of the Ummah over the last few centuries, including the decay of the Ottoman Empire and the unstoppable advance of European colonialism, "Muslim thinkers inevitably came to realise that something had gone wrong for the Muslim people," Dr. Mohammad Al Bakhit, the man chosen by King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to be the president of Al Al Bayt University, told the Jordan Times. "Muslims came to feel very deeply that they were no

longer the masters of their own destiny. The result, he explained, was the evolution of two major Islamic movements — both of them an attempt to cope with the same set of threatening circumstances,

but each radically opposed to the other in its direction. The most visible and powerful movement was the

call for a return to a "purified Islam," purged of foreign and industrial age influences, which were seen by its advocates as irrevocably contradictory to Islam and its teachings, Dr. Bakhit said.

This movement saw its first major success with the Wahabi preachers, who played a vital role in the founding of Saudi Arabia, perhaps the world's most ultra-religious state. The movement has now exploded into worldwide prominence with the rise of Muslim fundamentalism throughout the Islamic World over the last two decades.

However, it is the second and much smaller movement of thought which Dr. Bakhit and his colleagues in the Royal Commission in charge of founding and watching over Al Al Bavt University hope to nourish

This second movement, shared between a limited few of Islam's scholars and thinkers over the last two centuries, calls for a return to the ancient principle of "Bab Al Ijtihad." This principle, which has lain dormant in mainstream Sunni Islam for over a thousand years, holds that the teachings of Islam should be kept open to Muslim scholars and thinkers on an enduring basis for reevaluation and interpretation, in order to maintain a critical balance between Islam's original gospels and the unceasing impact of historic and social changes which exert their effects on the Ummah with the progression of time.

"We want to pick up the threads of this movement, but with more strength and broader vision than have been used before," said Dr. Bakhit. "With the communications revolution invading every bit of this planet, no one can pretend that he can isolate himself from the rest of the world."

To reopen the door of Ijtihad, Dr. Bakhit and his colleagues hope to gather together on the university's campus an international group from among the best and brightest of the Ummah's scholars "to think deeply, in a very careful and intelligent manner, and give their opinions on the subjects which are presented

Although the university will aim to draw together Muslim students from all of the nations of the Ummah. Dr. Bakhit said, he stated emphatically that the primary language of research and instruction at Al Al Bayt University will be Arabic.

The people of the Ummah need solutions to the endless problems facing them," he said. And as Arabic is the original language of the Koran, "giving the answers to those problems in Arabic will give them a sense of closeness and understanding towards those

In addition to seeking to heal the many rifts which

have fragmented the Ummah through a return to Bab Al litihad, the university's directors hope to play a part in narrowing the huge gap of misunderstanding and mistrust which has prevailed between Muslims and members of other faiths across the centuries, particu-

larly between the Ummah and the Western World. Islam is a noble culture, and it is high time that the many stereotypes and phobias against Islam are dropped," Dr. Bakhit said. "We are in the process of developing a global community," which means that the establishment of mutual trust between all faiths is needed. He added that both Muslims and those on other sides of the religious fence are equally responsible for the success or the failure of the undertaking.

As a part of its endeavours to bridge this gap, Al Al Bayt University will be accepting a limited number of non-Muslim students into its programme to study Islamic history and sociology, and will also maintain a close affiliation with a new institute for cross-religious studies which has been established in cooperation with the Vatican — the Royal Institute for the Study of

That Al Al Bayt University is an ambition which is beyond price to the Hashemite family, there can be no doubt. For the Royal Commission which will steer the new university is personally chaired by Prince Hassan. and in addition, the legal charter of the new school explicitly separates it from any accountability towards either the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Higher Education.

But what sort of reception the international school may receive from the many Islamic conservatives and fundamentalists who play such a strong role in shaping Islamic thought today remains to be seen - iundamentalists have long been opposed to the principle of Bab Al Ijtihad, which they see as a questioning of the unquestionable — the core principles of Islam as spelled out in the Koran and its other holy books. As well, King Hussein's strongly worded speech two

years ago seemed to indicate that what will ultimately be produced from the research and studies of Al Al Bayt University is by no means expected to please everyone in the Islamic World.

For his part, Dr. Bakhit downplayed predictions that Al Al Bayt University might stir controversy in the Ummah: "We are not aiming to oppose any particular faction, and we have no intention to inculge ourselves in politics — we are a highly refined institute, devoted to the Ummah."

However, the new university's president could not help but reveal by the manner of his speech that he is a man with a dedication to a cause: "We believe that knowledge is power, and we ask all people to join ranks with us to fight ignorance and fanaticism." he said, with an unmistakeable resolve in his voice.

Gates of hell open, ghosts in high spirits

The Associated Press SINGAPORE - Nobody seems overly worried, but people in Singapore be-

lieve that the gates of hell opened Sunday.

Chinese tradition holds that the gates stay open during the seventh lunar month - Aug. 7 to Sept. 5 in the Western calendar this year - when the spirits of the dead are free to roam among the living.

Restless spooks with living relatives are said to visit their homes to share the comforts there. But the ghosts of those who died without descendants, or who were ignored by their kin while alive, may wander the streets, hungry and envious.

Unless appeased with tood and entertainment before they return, these wayward spirits might cause mischief. Open-air puppet shows,

Chinese operas and pop concerts are staged for the dead and their descen-

also burn "hell money," enough cash.

Some provide the spirits with make-believe passports known as "permits weekly lottery.
for the souls." Weekly lottery.
One Singapore

Public feasts are arranged and the hungry

By Kenneth L. Whiting consumed by the living guests.

Candles and incense sticks burn throughout this city-state, where 76 per cent of the three million people are Chinese.

Not a formal holiday, the festival of the hungry ghosts was celebrated in Singapore as early as 1836, according to the Federation of Chinese Clan Associations.

Nowadays, the Tourist Promotion Board touts it as an attraction for visi-

The origin of the festival is obscure, but ancestor worship has always been a apart of Chinese culture.

One legend credits the festival to Emperor Wu of the Lisang Dynasty (A.D. 502-577) who, in a dream, was told to organise rites to venerate the dead.

A more anecdotal version says it originated with a double suicide similar to Romeo and Juliet, and the annual feasts are thrown in their honour.

In exchange for the Ancestor-worshippers annual welcome, the ghosts are expected to remock currency issued by ciprocate by helping those the Bank of Hell, to en- still on Earth, Worshipsure the ghosts have pers often seek the blessings of their ancestors in picking winning combinations of numbers in the

One Singaporean calls is "a month for being jit tery." when believer: ghosts are invited to par- avoid going out at nigh take. Chicken, pork, rice and forbid their children and fruit are the staples. from some everyday acti The food and drink is later vities like swimming.

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Recreating the wheel

By Jean-Claude Elias

Ever since the personal computer (PC) concept was introduced in the early eighties, analysts and software designers realised that the users were going to look for ready-made, easy to learn, easy to use programmes. By the middle of the decade, the main targets were

well-defined: Word processing, electronic spread-sheets and databases. Even today, these three groups constitute the bulk of the software Mr. Everybody

It took until the end of the decade, circa 1990, for other, more specialised applications to be wellimplemented as ready-made products. These included programmes like CAD (Computer Aided Design), Graphic tools and more particularly Accounting.
While PC users seem to have easily accepted most of

the available ready-made programmes, also called packages, they are still reluctant to trust the ones that allow them to handle their accounts, preferring to have experts develop tailor-made software for them. This attitude is more perceptible in the Middle East than in Europe or the United States for instance.

The advantages of ready-made software versus tailor-made are well-known and was made the subject of this very column a few weeks ago: Immediately available, less costly, well tested, etc.

Why is it then that the average user in the Middle East likes Excel, Lotus, Word, WordPerfect, dBASE, FoxBase, Autocad, Corel Draw, but reluctantly accepts DacEasy, Sage, Pacioli or Peachtree (four well known Accounting systems)?

Based on information gathered in Jordan over more than ten years, taking into consideration only small to middle size private companies or business (banks excluded), I estimate that only 20 per cent of them use ready-made Accounting systems while the remaining 80 per cent opt for painful, long, risky, expensive software development.

When it comes to letting computers handle your money, you only trust what you have personally designed and developed. This attitude, this fear rather,

chip talk

partly understandable, is but a reflection of very conservative, old fashioned ideas.

Standard Accounting packages are perfectly tested. They also cover most cases and can be perfectly tailored by the user or the operator to suit his taste or needs. They were designed by people who are experts in software and accounting and therefore give you the very best in the field.

However, being able to manipulate such programmes requires a little effort and preparation at the beginning. This is what usually frightens most people. A good understanding of the accounting principles and the structure of a chart of accounts is essential. Many managers, unfortunately, do not have, or at least do not master these notions.

Another reason why this phenomenon is more obvious in our area is that most packages here are pirated copies, sold or distributed without the original documentation that comes with the legal, original product. Without such documentation the user has little or no possibility to properly learn how to use the

When one looks at the price of original Accounting systems, one wonders how do people still turn to tailor-made development. From simplest to most sophisticated, ready-made packages are available at

prices ranging from \$80 to \$400.

With such little cost to bear for excellent software, is it still worth recreating the wheel?

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- In 1890, a cow called Mollie, from Ohio, USA began giving black milk. The phenomenon had the scientists of the day baffled. But the milk tasted very good as did the butter made from it, although it did look like a slab of coal tar.

* * *

- George Washington (1732-1799), the first U.S. president, was also its first millionaire. He died in the last hour of the day, the last day of the week, of the last month of the year of the last year of the century.

— The sport is thought to have originated in Egypt when children used large stones set up as pins and

- Only half an hour after he is born a mountain goat can stand quite firmly and indeed will most probably try to climb up the nearest hill.

- The American, Thomas Stevens, was the first person to ride around the world on a bicycle. It took uim three years to complete the trip.

* * *

- Many people would think that farming is the oldest industry - in fact, the oldest industry is the roduction of chopping tools and axes, known as 'flint knapping' which started about 1,750,000 years

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

***** *

- Where's the Royal Jordanian Airlines office, lease? yna maktab al-khotoot al-jaw'wiya Al-Malakiya Al

Ordoniya, min fadiik?

— I'd like to book two seats on Monday's plane to 10aba

reed an abjiz mak'adayn ala taa'iret youm el-

— Is there a flight to Egypt on Thursday?

Led honaka reblit tayaran ela Misr youm el-Khamis? - Is there a coach from the town to the airport? 'al toojad arabet hantour minal-madina elal-matar? --- When must I check in?

Matat yajib tasjeel jawaz as-safar? - I'd like to change my reservation.

Oreed tag'yeer el-hajz. - I'd like to postpone my flight for reasons eyond my control.

reed ta'jeel ar'ribla le'asbab kharija an iradati. - Am I allowed to take my little dog with me on

vi Yosmah lee be'an aakhodh ma'ie kalbi as'saghir alat'ta'ka?

TIME FOR FUN

A French villager once went to a city. While aming, he heard shouting and singing. He realised vas a wedding. Asking about the bridegroom, one the guests answered: "Je ne sais pas" meaning I n't know.

On the other day as he was walking along the eet, he saw a funeral and asked about the dead man. In answer to his question a passer-by replied: "Je ne sais pas." Then he said to himself: "Poor this 'je ne sais pas', he married yesterday and has died

A simpleton once visited a town for the first time. He was attacked by its dogs which were going to bite him. He tried to pick up a stone with which he might have kept the fierce dogs away, but it was too difficult for him to do so. Then he said: Cursed be those townsfolk who let loose their dogs and fasten

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

* * *

t is an artesian well and why so called? 2. What is the difference between a KEPI and an OKAPI?

3. What is the origin of the symbol (?) for question mark? 4. What is the name for a native of:

Liverpool

B. Newcastle Moscow

D. Manchester

E. Glasgow F. Texas

5. What fruit is not eaten until it is rotten?

* *

YOUR CHARACTER IN FOCUS

Born on June 3

 Has independent views about religion. - Positive and determined in his ideas and rather obstinate in carrying out his plans.

— Confident of his ability.

Self-reliant and takes his own decision.

- Has the habit of talking loudly.
- Fond of show and likes to observe form, order

and law. Jovial in spirit and cordial in manner.

- His passions are healthy, spontaneous and without inhibitions. - Devoutly religious and has true dignity.

 Has tremendous enthusiasm and is not self-Takes an active interest in sports and outdoor

activities. His intellect is of a very high order. Broadminded, tolerant, humourous and truth-

Open-hearted with good understanding.

PUZZLES

(A) Make one new word from the two words in each line rearranging and using all the letters.

1. ale + bun 2. tag + amen

3. tan + scion

4. **шолеу** + spud

5. riot + dunce

(B). Insert the word that completes the first word and starts the second:

CLUE: SPIN S (...) E3

Somebody to lean on

By E. Yaghi

Haitham is a legally blind student at a public institution of higher learning in Amman. Several days ago, the following incident happened to him. As he sat at his desk, the professor entered and announced to the class: "We will go directly to the technical building to see a film concerning the subject we are studying."

Students usually thrill at deviating from the norm

and also enjoy a break in routine, so almost as one, the group flooded out of the large lecture room and made its way towards entertainment. However, no one remembered Haitham, who may know his way around familiar classrooms in one area, but appeared confused and lost in any effort to make his way towards the technical building. The flood had soon gone on ahead of him leaving him nearly turned round about as passing students had quickly formed themselves into twos and threes intent on reaching their destination as fast as possible in order to reserve a front seat. Poor Haitham stood alone on the steps of the white building which housed his lectures with an expression of abandonment on his face. He groped down the steps and just about lost his footing as some students passing by either ignored him or sneered at him because of a weakness that he was not responsible for. Though the youth's built is smallish and thin, at first glance, it is difficult to discern that he is legally blind, but anyone would notice that there is something either physically or mentally deficient about him, regardless of the fact that there is no sign that his eyesight is very weak. He is a meek, mild and polite young man who pays attention to the lectures and tends to become annoyed at the immature antics of some of his fellow colleagues. He is cordial and trusting like a child and certainly did not deserve to be abandoned on the steps all alone without a helping hand or someone to lean on.

He stumbled down the stairs nearly falling and his

egs twisted around themselves until he untied them with some effort swerving in a crooked path, still groping for a way to reach the technical building in one piece. He cut across a street where students swarmed in all directions spinning him in a semi-circle with complete indifference. Slowly, like the turtle racing the hare, Haitham tried to edge his way up some steps of a steep incline, putting his foot and stepping where there was no place to step and tripping on stairs that he didn't expect. A one-legged shepherd in ancient clothing had silently observed the youth from early on

and not able to bear the situation any longer, hobbled on his cane nearer Haitham and at last said in a gruff voice: "Here boy, lend me your hand. We all need somebody to lean on sometimes in our lives! Come on, I'll take you where you're heading for I'm going there

Haitham recognised the voice of his crusty classmate and knew him to be the old man who decided to get a degree even if it killed him. He had often wondered why anyone so old would even bother to study at all. What good would a degree do him? He had even been so bold once to ask the antique shepherd: "Why sir do you study? Are you planning to work once you get your diploma?"

The old man roared in laughter and then when he calmed down a bit chuckled out: "Well, no, my boy. I am seeking knowledge as if one might look for a treasure, for I want to enrich myself with something much more valuable than anything material. I need to be spiritually enlightened. Man cannot live by bread alone now can he? Can you understand, or do you think I'm an old fool?"

He didn't really understand but he shook his head anyway, and now, here the old shepherd was by his side, grabbing his arm with angry force and pulling him up the stairs. The crippled leading the blind. Everyone stared but the old man paid no attention and the youth didn't know the difference. At last they reached the technical building where the shepherd let go of the boy's arm, leaving him to grope for a place to sit down. The old shepherd hopped to an empty place, threw down his cane and sat with a thump and proceeded to grumble to those beside him: "No one to help that poor youth! What is the matter with the students? Why didn't anyone bother to assist the boy? Everyone went their own way just worried about themselves, never thinking to look back and check on someone who needed them. I think there is something wrong with a people that don't take care of the innocent, the poor, the humble and someone who needs somebody to lean on. Whatever is this world coming to?'

The movie room was dark and cool. He started to watch the film apparently shutting out the glare of the red sun outdoors and putting aside his annoyance at least until the movie about other people's problems ended. Meanwhile, Haitham could hardly see what was happening and the noise of the film mixed with students' whispers and blended together in a distracting hum.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW Thursday, Aug. 11

8:30 Heart Of Courage

Rescue operations that carry danger and risk.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Goodbye Charlie

All it takes for someone to inherit a great wealth, is to get a true identification of the "dead" body.

10:00 News In English

Friday, Aug. 12

9:10 E.N.G.

A father avenges the death of his 14-year-old daughter and Melinda uses the power of TV to expose her

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emîlie

Emilie gets closer to her friend Evin, especially when he is seeking help for his sick mother.

11:10 Dad's Army

Man 'Hunt

Old army recruits learn that not all parachuters are

Saturday, Aug. 13

7:30 Dimension-X

Howfungi and other living things work in the soil under

8:30 Movies, Games and Videos

A look at the latest computer games, videos, and movies that are hits at the box office.

9:00 One To One

9:30 The Campbells

Bird Of Paradise

A woman, in search of rare birds, comes face to face with Dr. James. She tells him there are people who want to destroy her work.

10:00 News In English

Sunday, Aug. 14

8:30 Coach

Baby Wreckers

It is an obvious mistake that Haydn consents to "baby sit" — even for a short time!

9:10 Quantum Leap

Rebel Without A Clue

Sam is trapped in the past — in 1958. His mission: To save a young women.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Eliott

The two sisters' projects improve and expand.

Monday, Aug. 15 8:30 Big Brother Jake

Jake and friends remember old Mrs. Fang as she considers leaving the neighbourhood.

The World Of Mrs. Fang

9:10 A Galactic Odyssey

10:00 News In English 10:20 Matrix

A Madness To His Method Matrix needs to discover the truth behind a lunatic. dressed as a pirate, who claims that a local industry is dumping toxic waste that poisons the water.

11:10 No Job For A Lady

Jean, the Labour parliamentarian, looks into the issue of "murderers held in jail."

Tuesday, Aug. 16

8:30 Hollywood Stunt Makers

Meet the people who risk their necks to keep you in stitches - a behind the scene look at "comedy stunts."

9:10 The Commish

Do You See What I See?

Commissioner Scali and his vigilant men are after a serial rapist whose victims are wealthy women.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Rose Against The Odds

The story of a young, ambitious aborigine from Australia who runs against the odds and becomes a national boxing champion.

Wednesday, Aug. 17

8:30 Harry And The Hendersons

Roots

Old American Indian medicines are the only remedies for George's injured knee. 9:10 The Nature Of Things

The Vision Of The Blind

The photographed auditory landmark objects that a blind men identifies, by how they reflect or absorb sound become his "visual images" in his world.

> 10:20 The Nanny Sunday in The Park

Who could tolerate a noisy Boy? The Nanny tries to, as she realises he is the son of a very influential father?

10:00 News In English



Screen star leads his brothers into a new acting dynasty

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brothers have followed. e had an all all safety starton in had even been the High High the High th Stephen and Daniel have followed him into the acting field.

Tamiliarity breeds contempt, as you know," Alec comments lightheartedly. "They thought, if this bozo can do it, we san dont. That's the way it is in my family. They would watch me on TV and say, 'I can't believe mey're paying "schmucko" all this money-to appear on TV. And hang as soon as they could get a ticket, they were out here on the first

No sibling rivalry among.the quartet? "Oh, sure there is, My

brothers are younger and ral mystic and sent back to thinner than I am. They're taking the food out of my mouth. Enormous resent- evil. ment at times," he says.

"Not really. We never go up for the same parts, my brothers and I. There are enormous differences between us. I don't think they can play the (characters)... I play... intense, willful.... They tend to do more coming-of-age things, young and innocent

It is true that in his early career Baldwin seemed to specialise in lowdown characters: Melanie Griffith's no-good boyfriend in Working Girl, Michelle Pfeiffer's Hit-man husband in Married To The Mob, the thieving psycho in Miami Blues.

Now he's playing the old-time radio superhero The Shadow.

The film's prologue de-picts the hero Lamont Cranston as "the butcher of Lhasa," a bloody drug merchant in Tibet who is captured by a supernatuthe United States to redeem himself by battling

The actor cited the famed intro to the radio show, intoned by Orson Welles: "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The shadow

"The translation of that is: This guy has been there,' Baldwin said. "Unlike a lot of other superheroes who seem to have stepped right out of a Boy Scout uniform, Cranston has lived a little, and he knows a little about evil." Alexander Rae Baldwin

III was born 36 years ago in the Long Island, N.Y., town of Massapequa. His father was a high school teacher and football coach who instilled his six children with a social conscience and a sense of hon-

Baldwin recalls that the brothers were good mimics who shared their father's love of movies.

Alec Baldwin with his wife actress Kim Basinger

"But I don't think any of us ever thought about acting," he recalled. "That was for other people.

Not until he was attend-

ing George Washington University in Washington, D.C., did he take an interest in drama. He transferred to the acting programme at New York Uni-

versity and studied with the legendary Lee Strasberg. Before he graduated, his dark good looks landed him a villainous role in the daytime serial "I loved working on a

soap. Fantastic training." he commented. "You're forced to make choices. Based on my experience, you need to make all the wrong choices first. Only the most gifted actors 'got it' right away.

"I think what made Brando so great was that he was knocking people down when he was 25 years old. That's rare. The saying goes, by the time you know how to play Hamlet, you're too old to play Hamlet." He moved on to a short-

lived action series Cutter To Houston and the nighttime soap Knot's Landing. His film debut in Forever Lulu was quickly forgotten, but he began playing secondary roles in successful films.

The Hunt For Red October thrust him above the million-dollar-a-movie mark. But he declined the follow-up in Patriot Games to appear in New

York opposite Jessica Lange in A Streetcar Named Desire.

Controversy has followed Alec Baldwin since his stardom: His public squabble with the Walt Disney Co. over the disastrous The Marrying Man; his defence of wife Kim Basinger, who was ordered to pay \$8.1 million in a movie contract dispute: his scathing attacks on politicians. mostly conservative Republicans.

Baldwin and Basinger are frequent targets of the scandal sheets.

"You get used to it," he reflected, "I never thought that was true. If you had asked me two years ago, I never would have said that. But you do get used to it. You realise that people are going to make assumptions about

"I guess the only problem would be if they stopped making assumptions

Flintstones stable supplied by British designer

By Kate Kelland Reuter

LONDON — A life-sized brontosaurus model was dismantled and shipped from its birthplace in a draughty north London warehouse across the Atlantic to the Stone Age et of Steven Spielberg's latest film The Flint-

the was re-assembled and joined the ranks of U.S. resit characters from The Mappets, Sesame Street, and Teenage Mutant Ninin Enriles which were all created by the same Londom designers.

When Spielberg asked designers at Jim Henson's London Creature Shop to make models for The Fintstones, now playing in Britain, he was not studio :- just eccentric activity.

character beasts, animals with a reality that tickles adults' as well as kids' sense of humour.

"Adults are open to having more fun these days... and we can make very strongly realistic creatures," said Jamie Courtier, the creature shop's design supervisor for the

project I would say that we were almost undoubtedly, completely qualified to do the job, he said.

cifically built around character creatures which is what the Flintstones are. They are creatures with personality."

The reality of designing and producing the animals tooking for a glamorous about 16 weeks of frantic

(the director) and discuss yesterday's drawings," said Courtier. "Then he would fax back sugges-

tions — 'I'd like a bit of this'," I like this nose." With the final approval of miniature models came the task of building real creatures — including the Brontosaurus - in the "For the Flintstones London workshop and shipping them to Los

Angeles for filming. "The design brief was very open," said Courtier, dispelling the suspicion "Our reputation is spethat Spielberg dictates to the last whisker the look of his characters.

"They came to us with a script which named the creatures - like the 'Pigasaurus waste disposal unit' - and they left it to us as for Spielberg's movie was a design entity to come up and exploration of imagingreat."

#Flue creature shop faxes of drawings, and ev- with the creature shop be- psyche."

prides itself on designing ery day my job was to gan with an invitation for character beasts, animals speak to Brian Levant design and budget proposdesign and budget proposals for his prehistoric blockbuster Jurassic Park.

The creature shop

didn't get that job, but Courtier is confident their work on The Flintstones established firm links with one of the most important names in the world's film industry. The staying power of

creations from the creature shop - Sesame Street's Big Bird and the Muppets' Animal - sugests a sound base for The Flintstones, and Courtier sees the momentum in this film genre continuing.

"Interest and appetite for fantasy films waxes and wanes to a certain extent but there will always be a market," he said. "The imagination with the goods. It was ary places, imaginary events and creatures is so much part of the human

Courtier sees the creature shop as a design source which makes the fantasy reality.

The film has been

accompanied by a flood of merchandise. "I think the designers should be on royalties for creating the things in the first place," Courtier

Around 200 products including children's pyjamas, pencil sharpeners, sweets and talking alarm clocks - have hit the movie-going public, some of them months before The Flintstones was even released.

Unofficial estimates forecast takings of £20 million (\$30 million) from merchandise alone.

"In the case of the Flintstones, its extraordinarily all encompassing... but the kids crave the stuff. I suppose it's a tribute real ly," Courtier said.



rom left: Rosie O'Donnell, and Elizabeth Perkins in the

Rick Moranis, John Goodman movie The Flintstones this country is the inven- able to make films that

But he laments the apparent inability of the British film industry to exploit national talent for its own gain rather than watchinng Hollywood's heavyweights move in and "Part of the character of this grasp, they seem to be tor."

VETY POO

tiveness and artistry that make you go 'wow'." stems from being part of Europe and from our "But we need a Lontradition," he said.

donwood. We've got the "Its the 'wow' factor ability, there's no doubt that the Americans are about it. We should try

Saint-Exupery — a reluctant hero turned legend

w. By John Follain Reuter

PARIS :- A reluctant to all his life, Count Ammine De Samt-Exupanthor of The Little ince, is being glorified France marks the 50th niversary of his mysteous disappearance.

The writer's career as a Noncering aviator and the Conambic way he died on uly 31; 1944 — vanishing mer the Mediterranean in a mission to prepare mvence - have done to keep the legend

Shortly before his বর্ড, Saint-Exupery had en grounded after rocking a plane in a esh: landing.

ut he tirelessly lobbied supetiors and finally permission to fly from ia in Corsica, aboard American P38 lightning Bound for Lyon * Econnaissance misn, he vanished someere between Corsica the French Riviera. Dead at only 44, Saintopery remains the eterchild of modern tach literature — like endearing hero of his Sic fable Le Petit con which a pilot were universal truths Pigh a chance encoun-

in the desert. blishers and admirers revived the legend of landings. Oshing aristocrat, one a breed of daring Ti new editions and ning the seabed for

The biggest accolade is publication by the prestigious Pleiade series of the first volume of Saint-Exupery's collected works including several letters.

Publisher Gallimard has also produced a glossy picture album given free to any buyer of three works in the Pleiade series.

The culture channel Arte dedicated an evening's programming to Saint-Exupery this month, and public broadcaster France Television is making a film on his last mis-

The adulation has several precedents. When he served as culture minister, fellow writer Andre Malraux, himself a former airman, said Saint-Exupery would be laid to rest in the Pantheon - if his body were ever found.

Last autumn, the Bank of France honoured him by putting his face on a new 50-franc note — misspelling his name with a superfluous accent on the

Always a pilot first and a writer second in his own eyes, Saint-Exupery was a private man, à dreamer who clung to the loneliness of the aviator. He flew for the first time at the age of 12 and was happiest in the pilots' mess swapping tales of engine failures and forced

"He rewrote a great deal, had many doubts. the anniversary and did not deliver the octes, unleashing a articles and books he promised. He was elsewhere, busy with his new rockage of his plane. car, his new friends, a

American translator Lewis Galantiere remembered.

for flying permeates his works, which are largely autobiographical. In "Vol De Nuit" (Night Flight), he tracks a plane trapped in a storm over Brazil. In "Pilote De Guerre" (Flight To Arras), he draws on his experience as a pilot at the beginning of

World War II. The writer sought re-fuge in the United States after France's defeat by Nazi Germany in 1940. Because he refused to rally behind the Gaullist Free French, he was regarded by some as a supporter of the collaborationist Vichy

Long before he took to writing, Saint-Exupery risked his life to fly mail across deserts and oceans for the pioneering Aeropostale line.

Launched in 1918, the line initially started at Toulouse and stopped at Barcelona. It was slowly extended to Casablanca and Dakar, and then across the Atlantic to Bra-

zil in 1930. In 1928, when he was station-master in Cap-Juby on the coast of Africa opposite the Canary Islands, Saint-Exupery wrote his first book, Coursier Sud, about the

Toulouse-Dakar line. the record for Paris-Saigon, but crashed in the Libyan desert and was res-The Little Prince, pub-

lished posthumously, on the spot where his plane hit the ground.

Saint-Exupery's luck Saint-Exupery's passion ran out in 1944. His squadron's duty officer entered in the log-book: "Pilot did not return and is presumed lost."

Today, many still refuse to accept that verdict. Historians, former pilots and witnesses have all tried to solve the enigma.

Among the theories: German fighters shot his plane down. Someone sabotaged It. suffering from old wounds, the pilot fainted in the heat of his cockpit. He committed

Salvage experts sponsored by a champagne maker and backed by the French Navy searched the Riviera off Nice, Monte-Carlo and Saint-Laurent-Du-Var in 1992.

Last summer, sonar revealed a shape which could be that of a plane in the Gulf of Giens but divers found nothing.

In March, the body hunt called briefly and inconclusively on the sleepy town of Carqueiranne near Giens after its mayor said a body thrown up by the sea in September 1944, and buried in the local cemetery, could be Saint-Exupery's.

"His body was never meant to be found," wrote historian Rene Chambe in his History Of Aviation.

"Did he not belong... to In 1935, he tried to beat a caste for whom a coffin is too narrow? They escape from it and lose themselves in the imcued by a caravan. He set mensity of sky, earth and

Tired of gambling? Try ventriloquism show

By Richard Younger

Reuter NEW YORK - In the neon heart of Las Vegas, a few hundred dummies have taken up residence - not the kind who lose their shirts to gambling,

but the wooden variety. They are part of Valentine Vox's ventriloquism exhibit at the newly opened Magic and Movie Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is the brainchild of Retonio Breitenmoser, a memorabilia collector and founder of the Magic Casino in Switzerland, which was also curated by Vox.

"Basically, we've relo-cated the European museum over here," Vox told Reuters in a recent telephone interview from Las Vegas. "It's a much more suitable location for

Some of the Hall of Fame's featured artefacts include Houdini's leather straitjacket, Liz Taylor's gown from Cleopatra, Edgar Bergen's famed dolls Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd, antique arcade games, plus toys, books, playbills and postcards relating to ventriloquism and magic. Visitors are also treated

to houtly performances in the 150-seat Houdini Theatre, where Vox entertains nightly with his doll Jorge, alternating with several other speciality acts.

The British-born entertainer is also author of the recently published book I Can See Your Lips Mov- amazing stuff that I knew

ing: The History And Art Of Ventriloquism (Plato/ Players Press), the most comprehensive study ever written on the subject.

"I built my exhibit on the basis of my book." he says, "so what you see in the book is on the walls of the museum. It has a story line: The history of the art over the past few thousand years right up to the present day.

The book, which took 20 years of research, was begun in the mid-'60s when Vox, then working as a children's TV show host in Canada, was asked to record an album on ventriloquism.

"I went to the libraries to write an historical intro for the album," he says, "and realised there was no documented work on the history of ventriloquism. only trivial things. That really began my quest."

The meticulously detailed and lavishly illustrated work traces the origin of ventriloquism — the word derived from Latin for "belly speaking" -from its earliest recordings in ancient Greek and biblical writing as a form of prophesy and divination to its emergence as popular entertainment in the mid-18th century. The last chapter contains "how-to" information and includes

secrets of the trade.
Vox conducted his research at the British Museum, London University and in such exotic environs as Tokyo and the

Vatican library. "I was coming across had never been published," he says, "I was entertaining on ships, so wherever I went. I'd do research. It was a lifetime's work, but I was pleased that I was the first to really document it."

As his book explains, the familiar pattern of the wise-cracking doll sitting on the straightman's knee did not start to become popular until 1896, when Fred Russel, known as "the father of modern ventriloquism." walked onto the London Palace Theatre's stage carrying a single figure which he

placed on his knee. Prior to Russel, and continuing into the early 1900s. ventriloquists commonly used a row of dolls and elaborately staged scenarios. For example, J.W. Cooper's act, which is recreated at the Hall of Fame, featured five characters in a barbershop setting controlled by fishing lines attached to con-

cealed foot pedals. It was Edgar Bergen in the 1930s and '40s, however, who catapulted the modern ventriloquist to international fame through sadio, film and

"I had the privilege of making a little film with Bergen in the '60s," Vox recalls, "and I could see why he became a big star. It wasn't because of the radio. He'd learned this art and he had this beautiful timing. He made the characters come alive to where you really believed in them.

An expert at the "distant voice". Vox has also launched a children's TV show, My Video Party. currently being test-marketed in Nevada on the

Fox Network. "We do skits and also have cartoons and videos," he says. "It has that nice flavour that kids shows used to have, like Captain Kangeroo and Paul Winchell.'

Regretfully, Vox acknowledges the minor role to which his chosen craft has been relegated. "In the States, there's a

stigma where ventriloguism is not really considered an art," he says. Vox s own "obsession" with ventriloquism began when he was 10 years old and found a penny leaflet

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about voice-throwing. "It came in very handy at school," he confides, "I could talk to the guy next to me and smile at the teacher. But I suppose my father was the greatest influence on me, 'cause he was always telling me to

keep mv mouth shut." Like the legendary Houdini, who took his stage name from the magician Robett Houdin, Valentine Vox adapted his current moniker 19 years ago, becoming the third ventriloquist to use the

"It was nice to carry that mantle." he notes. "Sometimes when you do something like that it either works or it doesn't. For me, it worked from the moment I used it like magic."

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UAE to scrap free medical care for expatriates

📑 Tousef Kassem Reuter

DUBAI — Expatriates, who probably make up 75 per cent of the United Arab Emirates' people, will have to dig deep into their pockets to pay for medical care when a virtually free scheme is replaced by compulsory in-

"We are only a few details away from a major transformation," said an insurance industry source who declined to be

"Now it is inevitable." he added, pointing to a recent Ministry of Health study urging the government to scrap subsidised

medical care for foreign residents.

The ministry report, which has been submitted to the cabinet, concluded that providing free medical services to foreigners was too big a burden for the state to carry.

The estimated cost to the emirate of Dubai alone is 600 million dirhams (\$164 million) annually.

Under the existing scheme, expatriates on work visas and their dependants are entitled to comprehensive medical care at nominal fees which do not cover a fraction of actual costs.

"The only solid fact we know is that the current

system will be scrapped... the rest is speculation."

the source said. The move is likely to hit middle and low-income earners in the UAE, many of them Asian labourers.

"Although the country's health budget has increased, each individual's share has decreased due to the rise in population," the ministry said in its report. The individual's share

of the health budget in 1993 was 815 dirhams (\$222) compared with 1,003 dirhams (\$274) in 1983.

Of the UAE's total population of 2.3 million. an estimated 1.75 million are expatriates.

The study called for establishment of a general authority for health insurance to oversee implementation of a new scheme.

Sources quoted by local newspapers said the new system was likely to introduce a compulsory oneyear health care card with a joining fee set at be-tween 300 and 500 dirhams (\$82 and \$137), compared with a fee at present of 250 dirhams

(\$68) for two years.
On top of that, individuals would have to pay for medical services at government hospitals and clinics, although it is not known how the government intends to charge.

Health sources said the government was also likely to make having valid medical insurance a prerequisite for issuing or renewing a work visa.

"It is a nightmare," said one Indian worker in the UAE with a family of

"Paying for medical cards alone at 500 dirhams a head will wipe out 25 per cent of my yearly earnings... and it is compul-

sory," he lamented. Kuwait's decision to abolish free medical care for foreign residents was criticised in the Kuwaiti parliament after an Egyptian worker died last March because he could not afford to pay for kidney dialysis. It is now reviewing the policy.

UAE sources did not know what services would be offered under the new scheme and whether employers would be asked to bear the costs on behalf of

employees. Most of the UAE's expatriates are Asian unskilled labourers earning anything between \$2,400 to \$6,000 annually. Health officials quoted

by local newspapers say the change is justified on more than just economic grounds. They argue that a large percentage of expatriate workers come from poor countries where contagious diseases are common.

Officials also believe that a new system would improve medical services and ease pressure on doctors at government clinics, which they say have been flooded with patients.

"Sometimes a doctor who is not supposed to see more than 40 patients a day is forced to examine more than 80," Dr. Jumaa Bahloul, director of the Department of Health and Medical Services in Dubai, said in a recent

interview. Although the government is expected to earn about 500 million dirhams (\$137 million) from the new scheme in joining fees alone, experts feel that the insurance sector will be-

nefit most as higher-income earners are likely to opt for private insurance rather than join the state scheme.

Companies in the UAE offer medical insurance as part of a life insurance package but experts believe this sector will boom

"Three new companies are already negotiating contracts to establish group medical insurance," an insurance executive

if the measure is adopted.

"We received inquiries from investors abroad about regulations governing setting up private hospitals in the UAE," he added.

Dutch congress is meat for science-starved vegetarians

By Sara Henley Reuter

TILT MAGUE -- Vegetader ed ap vith their jagent tibeans and image gathered า จากจบัสเดิ โดย**ป sci**entitle treence that their ealthy, ethically not et all bor-

> as at to get rid of eles surrounding nism — all that tut spiritual an Boven, director inten Vegetarian "We went to e medid what sci-....ieasure.

e 31st World trrian Congress, it his year by the meat-eaters т торож 30 сецин .. e. 🕖 in days mer of research or the longer n in the later of the **new-**

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"One of the goals of the congress is to increase world understanding of vegetarianism," said Mr. Van Boven. "We won't gain anything from a group of vegetarians sit-

ting in a circle agreeing

how nice life is. To this end, research from the United States, Germany and Belgium will underline findings like those recently presented in Britain, suggesting a meatless diet sharply reduces the risk of cancer and coronary or arterial

University professors will also bring evidence of ecological and social damage caused by intensive livestock farming.

They will reveal that plent and animal species are dying out as meatfarming overtaxes the land, and discuss how Third World communities are being deprived of food by growing inedible crops as export for livestock feed.

A former livestock farmer in the United States. ies from a Howard Lyman, will rechall ambark on count how he abandoned his ranch and converted to the Green Movement af-

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

"I think the image of

and the environment.

meat as a product is slowly in decline," said Mr. Van Boven. "For instance, the range of vegetarian products in Dutch supermarkets particularly is vastly increasing — and shops don't stock things people don't

Nonetheless, vegetarians remain a tiny minority in most Western cultures. Mr. Van Boven said Britain is home to the largest vegetarian population in Europe, with acous 7.5 per cent of the nation spurning meat.

He could give no reliable estimate of the world's total vegetarian population. pointing out that while there is no nationwide grouping in the United States, in countries like India vegetarianism is often so common it is a simple fact of

But he said the congress's 350 delegates from places as distant as Korea and Estonia — all share a keen appetite for scientific and moral support in their chosen diet.

A highlight for many will be when Australian to pames range ter realising how he was philosopher Peter Singer thor of a vegetarian his-

scientific project to underline the genetic links between humans and apes, as a step towards improving rights for animals.

The ultimate goal (of the project) will be for organisations like the United Nations to recognise animal rights," Mr. Van Boven said.

Ethically motivated vegetarians will also be fortified to hear a Leiden University researcher's findings - showing that animals do indeed undergo the equivalent of boredom and depression if confined in a small space for long periods.

Beyond brain food, French cook Jean Montagard will defy his meatcentred culture with vegetarian cookery demonstrations, and there will be a special Dutch dinner consisting of almost everything but the classic exports, cheese and bacon.

More "fundamentalist" vegans--- who also refuse dairy products - will be as well-served by the conference's wholefood caterers as the simple non meat-eating consumer. Mr. Van Boven said.

And Colin Spencer, au-. A collegicall to an harming people, animals launches an international tory of Britain, will delight

vegetarians who feel especially oppressed at carnivorous dinner parties by arguing that the human race was originally herbi-

vore — hunting, shooting

and fishing have led us

"The delegates will be a very average public," said Mr. Van Boven. "They are all kinds of people

We're already getting calls from old acquaintances keen to see each other again.

with all kinds of interests.

The conference, at the

the study found.

they were influenced by

religious beliefs. Only 15

per cent of the those who

supported the two prac-

found that 91 per cent of

the doctors supporting

suicide and euthanasia

The researchers also

tices cited religion.

the full week.

from Aug. 8 to 13, is open to the public for a daily price of 70 guilders (\$40) or 240 guilders (\$135) for

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Doctors split over legalising assisted suicide

BOSTON (R) - Doctors are sharply divided over whether it should be legal to assist seriously ill patients to commit suicide, a new survey of physicians' attitudes has found.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, canvassed 936 doctors in Washington state and found that 42 per cent believed it was acceptable in some cases for a person to deliberately administer an overdose of drugs to kill a patient who wants to die.

Forty-eight per cent of the physicians surveyed said such euthanasia was never ethically justified.

physician-assisted suicide was even higher.

Half the doctors surveyed said physicians are sometimes justified in helping a patient die by administering a drug overdose, while 39 per cent said such action is never ethically justified.

Few doctors expressed a: willingness to be involved themselves in euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide.

Although 54 per cent thought euthanasia should be legalised in some circumstances, only 33 per cent said they would be willing to perform it.

While 53 per cent thought physician-assisted suicide should be legal, only 40 per cent said they would help a patient die. The survey, led by Dr. Jonathan Cohen of the

University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, is one of only a few polls so far conducted of physicians on the subjects of euthanasia and physiciansassisted suicide. It was conducted in a state where voters narrowly defeated an attempt to legalise the two practices three years

The Cohen team found that blood and cancer specialists, the types of doctors most likely to be exposed to terminally ill patients, "were also the strongest opponents of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Psychiatrists, who had the least contact, were the strongest proponents of the two practices."

Tea may prevent cancer — study

LONDON (AFP) - U.S. cancer research, said his scientists have found evidence that drinking tea regularly may help to prevent certain. kinds of cancer, the Sunday Times reported.

The scientists said a substance in the leaves of green and black tea prevented the spread of cancer by blocking cancercausing agents in the bloodstream originating effects were lessened if from eating cooked meats milk was added to the tea. and fish, the weekly re- or if the leaf chemicals ported Sunday.

Doctors in several centres are experimenting with mice and rats and have shown that cancers artificially induced in the laboratory animals could be "markedly reduced" by giving them tea.

Dr. John Weisburger, director emeritus of the American Health Foundation, said: "It is my impression that if you drink six cups of tea a day it will protect you against

cancer.' has 40 years`experience in properties.

studies showed the risk to rats of contracting cancer of the breast, colon and pancreas from cancercausing agents commonly found in cooked meats and fish was significantly reduced by doses of tea given in the same concentrations as drunk by humans.

But the protective were altered at too high a temperature, he said.

Professor Allan Conney, director of the Cancer Research Laboratory at Rutgers University in New Jersey, reported his team's study of tea's therapeutic properties in this month's Cancer Research journal.

The studies were inspired by findings in Japan that drinking green tea reduced the risk of colon cancer. Further investigations have found that Dr. Weisburger, who black tea has the same

per cent of the doctors Women doctors were significantly more likely to against the practices cited support physician-assisted the same reason for their opposition. suicide than men, but both genders had similar atti-Most doctors who suptudes toward euthanasia,

ported the practices said there should be safe-In examining the factors For example, 90 per that shaped doctors' atticent said witnesses to any tudes, the researchers found that 56 per cent of opponents of euthanasia request to die should not stand to benefit in any way and assisted suicide said

from the patient's death. Eighty-four per cent of doctors surveyed said alternatives such as hospice care and treatment for depression should have been exhausted first.

The researchers concluded that "the polarised attitudes of physicians will tent with the physician's late and implement laws role of relieving pain and and policies concerning late and implement laws suffering. Seventy-four assisted suicide."

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. An artesian well is a deep well which requires no pumping, but relies upon the pressure at which the water lies above appropriate strata to raise it to the surface. It is so called because such wells were first made in Artois, of which the ancient name was

2. A KEPI is a kind of military headgear; an OKAPI is a mammal related to the giraffe. It was not discovered until 1900, when it was found in the deep forests of the (former) Belgian Congo.

3. The symbol (?) for question mark is said to be formed from the first and last letters of the Latin quasetio = question, placed one over the other, thus

4. (A) Liverpudlian/Liverpoodlian. (B) Novocastrian.

Muscovite (D) Mancunian

(E) Glaswegian (F) Texan

5. The MEDLAR is not eaten until it is rotten. It is a deciduous, sometimes thorny, tree native to Europe and Asia. Apple-shaped fruit caten when partly decayed and becomes "bletted", when it has an agreeable acid and somewhat astringent flavour.

PUZZLES

(A) COMBINATIONS

1. Unable

Magnate

Sanction/Contain Pseudonym 5. Introduce/Reduction

(B) WORD COMPLETION



Last Week's Cryptograms

CRYPTOGRAMS

I. WELM SIIG WEYIDM MEDAAJS IL EM KJ

2. FATSO FTWIZHER ZHR DW QEWFTKJ

3. OUTSWOB WINKSHW GILBOKH CROWROK

4. IDENCE OIKY CRYHNIMES AB RINLENLW

MIDWY MILECHIRYC BAD OILS RIEDALC.

-By Frank N. Stein

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

FTWINDY WAX JATXNOTK PHORTKL WD

ZNL FNY FNEXZRHO PHSK. -By Barbara J. Ruge

WI TRITHO ONKIGO IK RECESS EH LOUW

ridiculously high premium. cant approaches tourists with outstretched hands r justifies as thrifts opportunity his yen for yen.

1. Hotshot insurance agent sells auto policy to very young man driving

most as higher-insamers are likely to r private insurance than join the state

Jordan, Israel make steady progress in Dead Sea talks

From Nermeen Murad at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel

panies in the UAFRDANIAN AND Israeli nedical income Wednesday got in the UAFRDANIAN AND services in the UAFRDANIAN AND services of a life insurance at m to the more mundane e but experts be ears to be a serious bid to us sector will hope at m the pace of negotiauis sector will be sears to be a servoir of negotialeasure is adopted us.

ce new Companie steral negotiations dele-ready negotiating as from the two sides cts to establish he into small groups, urance establish the into small groups, urance executive the details and technicalis that will lead the two received inquines and as things moved forvestors abroad ab ad, both sides appeared
in private hospin because of these talks.

The UAE he inciples and now we are
owing into details." Dr.
iarwan Muasher,
inciples and the longary ekesperson of the Jorda-

m delegation, told the Jor-

REZ, Gaza Strip (Agen-s) — Israel and the Pales-

ne Liberation Organisation

PLO) decided at a summit in Wednesday to speed up

seace moves, announcing

rectings next week to iron

at obstacles to Palestinian

elections and the expansion

"We decided the negotia-

ions will continue on Mon-

day and Tuesday between the

two committees that deal

with early empowerment and

90-minute meeting with PLO

¿ joint news conference at an

sraeli army base in the Gaza

empowerment, to the financ-

Rabin said he had "stressed"

Israel's commitment to the

declaration of principles

signed in Washington last

September and the follow-up

intonomy accord reached in

Mr. Arafat requested the

exhausted first continuous organising of

of self-rule.

But the "details" are not marginal or unsubstantive. Having established the principal of "mutual recognition of rightful (water) allocations of the two sides" of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers during the Wadi Araba talks in mid July, the "details" during Tuesday's and Wednesday's bilaterals included "discussing amounts of water shares," a Jordanian source

"I am not going to define to the press now any details on the talks between the Jordanian delegation and Israeli mission," the chief Israeli water expert, Nooh Kinarti, told the Jordan

He maintained that his sileace "is for the benefit of both countries" when asked to

"despair" at his treatment by

the Israelis and complaining

that international donors

have dragged their feet in financing Palestinian auton-

omy in Gaza and Jericho.

He has grown increasingly

frustrated at the stalemate in

spreading Palestinian self-

rule throughout the occupied

West Bank compared with

the rapid peace moves be-tween Jordan and Israel.

as "very important," thank-ing Mr. Rabin for "pushing

forward" what has been

Committees overseeing the

transfer of more civilian pow-

ers to the Palestinians and

organising elections to the

autonomy council will meet

again on Monday and Tues-

day in Erez, and the two

leaders could hold more talks

in two weeks time if neces-

sary, Mr. Rabin said. The liaison committee will

also meet on Wednesday next

The two men discussed the

issue of an early transfer of civilian powers to the Palesti-

nians throughout the West Bank as well as elections to

the autonomy council, origi-nally due to be held in mid-

July but now put back until at

Jernsalem was not discussed

just mentioned in passing. Israel insists that talks with

the PLO on Jerusalem are

Mr. Arafat has been upset

that Jordan was guaranteed a part in the May 4 Gaza-

not due to start until the third

year of self-rule.

alks after speaking of his special role over the Islamic Jericho accord.

Mr. Rabin said the issue of

week, the premier added.

agreed upon.

Mr. Arafat hailed the talks

moved to defining exact shares of water.

But while not revealing the details of their talks, both sides agree that there is a "common interest" between Jordan and Israel to ensure that both sides have sufficient supplies of water.

A Jordanian source said that there is a sense that Israel "has an interest" in cooperating with Jordan in not only agreeing on water shares in the Jordan River and Yarmouk River but also in jointly increasing the water

We know that Israel has an interest in cooperating on the water shares issue as well as in jointly working to increase water resources," the source said.

sites in Jerusalem in the Israel-Jordan peace declara-

Israeli Environment Minis

ter Yossi Sarid, who was tak-

ing part in the meeting, de-

nied that the Palestinians

were losing out because of the Jordan-Israel peace

"Any breakthrough on the

Mr. Rabin said he also

discussed the problem of vio-

lence in the Gaza Strip and

"I hope that on the Israeli

"Let's hope that what we

side, on the Palestinian side,

tensions will be reduced, vio-

are committed to will be im-

plemented in the spirit of

readiness to work together

with those who try by vio-

lence to undermine our

Mr. Arafat added he

hoped the two would meet

again even if only "to shake

hands," adding he hoped

"continuous coordination"

would help the two sides to

Mr. Arafat was accompa-

nied by seven ministers from

the new Palestinian authority

Nabil Shaath and security

services chief Amin Al Hindi.

Peres joined Mr. Rabin in the

talks, as well as Deputy Chief

of Staff Amon Shahak and

foreign ministry director Uri

Savir who both played a large

Foreign Minister Shimon

overcome obstacles.

cluding ton PI O ne

efforts."

lence will be reduced.

bilateral level benefits the

whole of the preace process,'

be told Israeli Radio.

tion two weeks ago.

Mr. Kinarti, speaking to Jordanian reporters, said earon that level. lier Israel was "100 per cent" committed to resolving the

water problem with the Kingdom in a manner "that you can live with and it would be a satisfactory one."

He said that he feels that with "a reasonable attitude I am sure that we will overcome the gaps between the two countries."

On the boundary demarcation talks, the Jordanian delegation sources said that Israeli negotiators had accepted the 1928 mandate document as delineating the borders between Jordan and

"What we are going to do now is a purely technical affair," a source said. If the Israeli side continues to view the issue as a "technical" rather than "political" one, Jordanian sources do not see any "major sticking points"

But behind the "detailed negotiations" here, Jorda-

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (I) looks at

Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin while addres-

sing the press following their meeting at the

BEIRUT (Agencies) - Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk

Al Sharaa said Wednesday

his country was engaged in

serious efforts with Israel to

break the deadlock in their

Despite the "constructive

tangible progress was made during U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher's

latest Middle East shuttle to

Mr. Sharaa spoke to repor-

ters after meeting with Presi-

dent Elias Hrawi, Prime

Minister Rafik Hariri and

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez

to brief them on the outcome

of Mr. Christopher's talks in

Damascus earlier in the

Mr. Sharaa sought to ease

mounting tensions in South

Lebanon between guerrillas

and Israeli occupation forces,

telling reporters Syria

opposed targeting civilians in

whether there's been any im-

portant change in the Israeli

position as long as they ha-

ven't publicly committed

themselves to full withdrawal

from occupied Arab territor-

ies," the Syrian official said

at the presidential palace in

"We are not sure until now

the conflict.

mediate a breakthrough.

' Mr. Sharaa said, no

peace negotiations.

Sharaa reports serious efforts

to lift Israel-Syria logiam

Christopher told the Syrians

that Israel wanted to push

forward the peace process

after it signed pacts with the

"What happened on the

Palestinians and Jordanians.

other tracks does not negate

the fact that without conclud-

able peace with Syria and

Lebanon the region will not

live in genuine peace," said

Underlining Syria's com-

mitment to Lebanon in con-

fronting the Israelis together

at the bargaining table, Mr.

Sharaa said, Mr. Assad has

opposed to Mr. Christopher

that Damascus form a joint

team headed by a Lebanese

to represent both Arab com-

the Americans that it was

"strongly annoyed" by an

Isreli air raid last Thursday

on the South Lebanon town

of Beir Al Zahrani that killed

eight civilians and injured 17.

a mistake and apologised.

civilians should not be

targeted by the violence,"

Mr. Sharaa said, adding that

last week's guerrilla rocket

attacks were in retaliation for

the Deir Al Zahrani air raid.

Israel has said the raid was

"We in Syria believe that

Mr. Sharaa said Syria told

tries at the negotiations.

a real, it

Mr. Sharaa,

the Kingdom has the "political will" to push ahead in its track of negotiation, a will that is apparently recipro-cated by Israel. Israel.

Sources in Amman told the Jordan Times that Jordan feels the urgency of registering concrete progress in its negotiations with Israel in view of the Cairo agreement on the Palestinian track and unseen but definite progress on the Syrian track.

The Kingdom has apparently been made aware progress on the Syrian track that includes reaching some type of agreeent on the extent of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

According to the wellplaced sources, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christophers' shuttle diplomacy be-

tween Syria and Israel has laid out a general frame for principles guiding an agreement between Syria and

What these sources expect to remain unresolved are "details" over the security arrangements after Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the timing of normalisation procedures and the phases of withdrawal.

Analysts and political sources expect that once the "final details" guiding the Syrian track are worked out, Syria would be ready to reach its own separate "declaration of principles" or agreement.

The analysts say that the Kingdom wants to ensure the "comprehensiveness" of the peace process but also does not want to be left trailing the other tracks of the Arab-

Erez crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Wednesday (AFP photo)

Lebanese resistance has no

interest in shelling northern

Israel or attacking civilian targets," said Mr. Sharaa.

ated that guerrilla operations

against Israeli occupation

forces in the south were "a

A top Israeli official mean-

while cited what called "posi-

tive signs" of a desire for

is director-general of the

foreign ministry, said the gap

between Israel and Syria over

the future of the Israeli-held

Golan Heights was still wide.

and it seems to me there is a

strategic decision. That is

also what we hear from the

Americans," Mr. Savir told

He said Syria had shown a

desire to reach a settlement

and responded positively to

Israel's progress with Jordan

towards clinching a peace

cant and what is perhaps all

the more significant is that

there are as yet no direct

(Israeli-Syrian) negotiations

at senior level in a way that

could be productive," Mr.

"The gaps are still signifi-

There are positive signs

The official, Uri Savir, who

peace by Syria.

Israeli radio.

But Mr. Sharaa also reiter-

Israel may give Jordan concessions in trade

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL is considering giving trade concessions to Jordan on exports to the territories outside of the autonomous areas, an Israeli official close to the economic talks with Jordan reported yesterday.

Economic negotiations with Jordan resumed yesterday at the Moriah Hotel on the Dead Sea shore.

The official said the talks were going very well, and that the Jordanians had asked for "symbolic" Israeli concessions on trade with Palestinians outside the autonomous areas. According to the official, the Israeli delegation is seriously considering agreeing to the Jordanian

request.
"In light of the positive atmosphere and of the fact that we are talking about a volume of trade that doesn't pose any threat to our economy, the delegation is inclined to accept the proposal," said the official.

Israeli officials have pointed out that the Paris economic agreement with the Palestinians has, to a great extent, left trade with autonomous areas in the hands of the Palestinians.

Prior to yesterday's meeting, Israeli officials were saying that following the ininal step of agreeing on a set of common principles, the negotiations would get bogged down on the details and that expectations for a quick breakthrough were prema-

They added that both sides agreed to undertake several feasibility studies for joint projects which also will take time until they are ready for

The Israeli delegation to the talks include Treasury International Division Director Ehud Kaufman, Customs and Value Added Tax Director Arye Zeif, Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles and Industry and Trade Ministry Deputy Director of Foreign Trade

Sanaa group says it took over YSP

SANAA (R) — Pro-Sanaa lower level officials of the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) have declared they have taken over the party, most of whose leaders fled into exile after the defeat of the Aden-based breakaway state a month ago.

A statement by the group, coinciding with the opening in Damascus on Tuesday of a congress of YSP leaders on the future of the troubled party, declared itself the sole legitimate leadership of the YSP.

The statement sent to Reuters late on Tuesday said the group was made up of YSP provincial secretaries and other activists but gave no

It was not known how many officials were involved or what following they had in the party, which dominated southern Yemen since independence 20 years ago.

The Damascus talks, trying to restore party unity after splits that emerged during the two-month Yemen civil war, were chaired by the YSP's deputy leader Salem Saleh

Mohammad. It was attended by 10 other members of the party's politburo, including former Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas and former Defence Minister Haitham Oassem

Mr. Mohammad was not directly involved in the secession but Mr. Attas and Mr. Taber were among its lead-

Taher.

Party leader Ali Salem Al Beidh, who fled to Oman after the collapse on July 7 of the state set up by southern leaders disgruntled after a four-year merger with the more powerful North Ye-

He is said by his Omani hosts to have retired from

The Sanaa group said it opposed secession and called for the trial of YSP leaders involved in secession.

It said it had "suspended politburo and central committee members inside and outside (Yemen) including secretary-general (Baidh) and assistant secretary-

general (Mohammad)." The group, calling itself the higher preparatory committee for the fourth YSP conference, said it was "the sole legitimate leadership which assumes all the party's leadership functions until the con-

vening of the conference." Such a conference is essential under YSP rules to decide leadership and other changes and the group said it would be held within six months.

Yemen's President Ali Abduliah Saleh's government has blacklisted as traitors 16 southern leaders, including Mr. Baidh, Mr. Attas and Mr. Qassem, and says they must stand trial for their in volvement in the secession.

But the list does not include Mr. Mohammad, who remains officially a member of Mr. Saleh's presidential council, and other YSP leaders who did not openly support the secession and remain members of the Sanaa government.

Mr. Saleh, who ruled the merged Yemen for three years in a 50-50 partnership with the YSP, has recently called on what he described as "YSP's middle echelon" to dismiss secessionist leaders and elect a new leadership.

suburban Baabda. "We believe that if Israel Mr. Savir said greater Sy-Mr. Sharaa said Mr. stops attacking civilians the rian flexibility was needed.

Savir said.

(Continued from page 1) I entrust my dear brother and

vocates of truth, goodwill d peace.

is in this context and

anating from my concern our smooth transition rards the new phase is not anyway obstructed, and owing that to enter such a se would require us to refulfilled the imperatives mocratisation based on erence to the Constituthe National Charter law, that I entrust you assuming the responsity for carrying out the arations for such a drive. democracy should be where justice reigns, and nterests of the nation and tizens are preserved, and where our special vementes are protected order for us to be able to pe with continuous inges, both on the domes-and regional levels. Given that I and your countryhave known about you ams of your penetrating and your respect for strict application of the in all spheres of life, your ership of this undertak-

will be invaluable. order to attain these fictives it is imperative to decision-making process group of individuals med with a history of perwal integrity. Furthermore, is necessary to introduce prehensive administrate reforms and to elevate e standard of the adminisative sector so that it may t able to interact with this ew environment, particularin terms of foreign investent, where a prospective ivestor is provided with wourable conditions to seek a local partner under a law which should also protect public funds. While Jordan also attempts to widen its contacts with the

Crown Prince to head-commission

European Union, the United States, Japan and other regional economic groupings, it should be obvious that the Judiciary, the Audit Bureau, and the Bureau of Administrative Control and Inspection, will have to play a complementary role within the framework of a set of modern laws that are fluent in the language of commerce, in order to preserve Jordan's reputation and status. It is important to note that any misconduct or error of judg-ment in the use of public funds will undoubtedly reflect negatively on the prospects for future investment. It is thus necessary to establish a Central Purchasing Authority, and to draft a new policy for foreign commercial dealings. It is also necessary to modernise present laws and regulations, keeping profit margins at reasonable and accepted levels. Doing all the above comes at a time when we are adamant to protect our economy from financial deviation and tedious bureaucratic red-tape, which may tarnish its clean and efficient image within Jordan as well as abroad. Those who have served with honesty and integrity, and who have worked tirelessly, should indeed be rewarded. From now on, there should be absolutely no room for leniency with those individuals or entities

who abuse public funds, and

there should certainly be no

room for the misuse of public

In view or all of the above.

office for personal gain.

heir with the task of establishing and heading a Royal Commission comprising as members those honest, qualified Jordanians he may deem fit. This Royal Commission should attempt, as one of its many objectives, to seek the creation of economic and investment atmosphere, in both the private and public sectors, based on clear foundations that guarantee the rights of the deserving without leniency, negligence or error. This environment will hopefully pave the way towards the development in the national collective sense, where those involved will run its different components according to sound and scientific bases. This should be done under administrative and legislative principles that will result in activating potential and widening the circle of participation and excellence in the national effort at every level. Such an atmosphere should also instill respect for the law and help identify those areas requiring change or modernisation within existing laws and regulations. Coordination between the different components of this new approach should by necessity be active and continuous.

I have no doubt that you will fulfill this task in the best possible fashion, and in this regard you have my unequivocal support. I pray the Almighty to bless you with

With my warmest affection and sincere admiration.

Your Brother. Hussein Ben Talai

Crown Prince expects accords in 1995 dan, saying Jewish lobbyists in the United States had (Continued from page 1) plementing projects that can contribute to the develop-Holy City and while religion ment of the region. pushed for the writing off of Jordan's foreign debt after the signing of the Washington Responding to a question cannot be separated from politics, "as we try to resolve on whether the coming the political issue there has to

be a religious solution that should enhance political moves" to end the conflict over the city.

Prince Hassan said Jordan had done more than any

other Arab country in terms of demographic absorption of refugees who came in different waves that burdened the country's resources and infrastructure. But the Crown Prince

emphasised that despite the cost of assimilating the refugees, Jordan gave full rights to all its citizens without discrimination. He urged that world economic aid should address the real problems of poverty and unemployment and not to employ technical terms that do not correspond with the realities on the ground.

He said aid should be directed towards countries that can proceed with im-

Morocco conference should channel its assistance to bilateral projects rather than multilateral ones that could be hard to implement, Prince Hassan said: "If the most competent can-doers can get together and come up with the nucleus of an investment seminar" ideas will translate into projects.

While noting that "much remains to be done before full peace dawns on the Middle East," Prince Hassan said it is essential to "break down stereotypes."

UJA Chairman Richard Pearlstone said many of the members of the delegation who are with him on the organisation's "Prime Minister's Mission" were interested in investing in Jordan as well as in Israel.

He said his group and other political Jewish organisations in the U.S. will work to increase economic and political support to JorDeclaration.

Mr. Pearistone presented Prince Hassan with a framed lithograph representing the Asher, an ancient Israeli tribe.

The UJA is a non-political, non-profit organisation that annually raises \$750 million of donations which it distributes to Jewish communities in the U.S., Israel and other countries.

Members of the UJA are industry and business leaders, whose annual contribution to the organisation amount to \$100.000. The Boston Jewish com-

munity is the oldest federated charity organisation in the U.S. and among its leaders is Steven Grossman, president of the influential American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

The group had visited Morocco and met with King Hassan before arriving in the Middle East.

(Continued from page 12)

However, domestic opposition to the security campaign and to the government's policy of supporting the Algiers government has begun growing.
Former Socialist Foreign

Minister Ronald Dumas said late Tuesday that the government should encourage Algerian leaders to hold talks with the radicals to defuse the Jean-Francois Deniau, a

minister under former conservative President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, said that rather than focus on clamping down on militants, France should maintain a "good distance" from both the Algerian government and the re-

regime as "dictatorial" "corrupt" and said it had proved its ineffectivenesss in finding a democratic solution" to the former French colony's political crisis. Algerian Islamic Fun-

He described the Algiers

damentalists leaders meanwhile have been playing down the Islamic threat to

Sheikh Abdulbaki Sahraoui, a founding member of FIS and honorary chairman of the Islamic movement's leadership outside Algeria, said late Tucsday that FIS and its armed wing did not want to "spread the conflict to French territory which has never been the target of the Mujahedeen (freedom fighters)."

60 TO THE

1.1.1

Sec. 17

King meets Christian leaders (Continued from page 1)

Algeria identifies attack mastermind

harm from anyone. This is reality and this is our march in which we take pride and which we strive to pursue and fulfil." At the outset of the meet-

ing, Rox Al Uzeizi delivered an address on behalf of the audience pledging the Christian community's absolute support for the Hashemite throne.

Mr. Uzeizi voiced the Christians support for the Hashemite family's en-

deavours to safeguard the boly places in Jerusalem and the King's efforts to regain Arab rights in the Holy City. Attending the meeting were Chief of the Royal

Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisers, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad as well as Prince

Congress Centre Rabin and Arafat agree wiblic for a dail, to speed up self-rule steps wilders (\$135) in week. of the doctor of course elections," Prime

ns

ne practices cite Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reason for ther reporters after a more than octors who sur leader Yasser Arafat. e practices sait "Definitely we have some ould be sait differences," Mr. Arafat told ample 00 P Strip, their first summit on witnesses to at home ground. die should no At the same time we have enetit in any war agreed to minimise all these patient's death differences between both of per cent a is starting from the question surveyed sak of Jerusalem, to the early s such as her and treatmen Mr. Arafat said.

Ssion shouk "With determination and

earchers on these stens, we are sure that "the polarise we will be able to overjump physicians wil , all our obstacles," he said. ficult to forms his their first meeting since npiemeni iawi mi. Aizizi sem es concerning omous Gaza in mid-July, Mr. cide."

ЭE 'r requires in at which the aise it to the Ils were first t name was

eadgear. 20 e. It was not in the deep is said to be of the Latin

other, thus

sten. It is a to Europe hen partly

je has an flavour.

FLALES

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan

should learn from Hong

Kong in dealing with indust-

rial changes, rather than fol-

low the protectionist path of

the United States and

Europe, according to the

Nomura Research Institute.

Kwan Chi-Hung, a senior manager at the affiliate of

Nomura Securities Co. Ltd.,

said the British colony's re-

cent experience in relocating

most of its indutrial base to

China was an "instructive ex-

ample" to Japanese industry.

Kuwait opens banks to foreign participation

opened banks and insurance firms to minority foreign ownership for the first time this week to try to boost competition in the lacklustre financial sector.

Law number 51 of 1994 sets a limit of 40 per cent on the amount foreigners can take in the equity of a bank or insurance company and stipulates it must be an exceptional case where a need exists to invest foreign capital or expertise.

"This law opens the way for big foreign banks to par ticipate in Kuwaiti banks," reads an explanatory note to

The law is part of a plan to

help the banking sector diversify. Once among the most buoyant in the Gulf, some Kuwaiti banks have suffered stagnant earnings due to debt problems and losses linked to Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

Officials insist they see signs of foreign interest in local banks but some bankers have questioned whether 40 per cent is enough to attract foreign companies. No foreign entrant is expected to make an immediate purch-

The law, dated Aug. 1 and passed by parliament earlier this year, took effect upon publication in the government gazette. A copy was received by Reuters Wednes-

The approval of the ministry of trade and industry has to be obtained in the case of insurance companies and that of the central bank in the case

The note said banks were facing increased international competition as a result of European Union moves towards economic integration. "It is therefore necessary that banks should have executive staff of high qualifica-

tions and experience and the

bank should be technically able to compete," the note "Developments in world

banking show it is in the

interests of small banks to accept the participation of bigger banks to make use of their experience and capacities," it added.

The central bank has advised some local banks to consider a range of reforms including mergers, foreign participation or better manement practices.

The government sets a higher limit of 49 per cent on foreign participation in com-panies in other sectors of the economy.

The most attractive prospect, National Bank of Kuwait — voted the world's best smaller bank by Euromoney magazine this year —

terested in a foreign partner.
About 43 per cent of local

bank assets are made up of low-yielding government bonds issued in 1992 in exchange for the banks' portfolios of bad loans under a debt rescue programme.

instead of chasing business, many banks must devote resources to chasing repayments from borrowers whose \$19 billion in bad debt has hamstrung the financial system since 1982.

Economists say some are heavily overstaffed and credit discipline has been lax.

The central bank has said the large number of banks six commercial banks, two

partly-Kuwaiti owned foreign bank and an Islamic finance company — are too many for the small 1.6 million popula-

The central bank has tackled some of the shortcomings by enforcing international accounting standards, capital adequacy requirements and credit concentration stan-

The central bank says the question of whether to allow foreign banks to open branches in Kuwait --- seen by some analysts as a more predent mode of entry for foreigners needed more time and a marked improvement in local bank performance.

Despite a share reduction of employment in the Hong Kong manufacturing sector, the territory's unemployment rate has remained at about two per cent as new jobs at higher pay have been created in the service sector," he

The economic boom in southern China also supports Hong Kong on the demand side by absorbing some of the territory's goods and services," Mr. Kwan said in the August edition of "Nomura

Asian Perspectives." Hong Kong's experience thus provides a lesson to Japan, currently obsessed with the "hollowing out" of its industrial base by the

strong yen. "Japan should pay more attention to the service sector and strengthen its links to the fat-growing economies of Asia," Mr. Kwan said, echoing the assessment of the government's annual white

paper on the economy re-leased recently. But the economist, himself originally from Hong Kong, said Japan seemed to be "wavering" between positive industrial adjustment and

protectionism. Japan's international trade and industry ministry is, for example, reportedly planning to help Japanese petrochemical makers to transfer excess production capacity to China in a programme sup-

Japan urged to learn from Hong Kong in dealing with industrial change

ported by Japanese govern. ment aid. "The plan is in prefer

agreement with the spirit of positive industrial adjustment and should be extended to other industries and other developing countries in the fa-ture," Mr. Kwan said.

 $4\pi^{\prime\prime}$

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But at the same time, the ministry is considering plans to impose restrictions on imports of textiles from Asia citing "market disruption" in Japan cause by the rapid growth in imports, especially

from China. The United States and Europe imposed similar trade barriers in the form of tariffs and quantitative restrictions on Japanee products after Japan caught up with the West in the 1960s.

The same measures were later applied to Asia's newlyindustrialised economies and other developing countries in

the region. "It is truly regrettable and ironic that Japan, which has firmly opposed such measures, is going to adopt a similar policy towards developing countries now that

the country's position has been reversed," Mr. Kwap "Japan should aband a the mercantilist view that production and exports are good while consumption and exports are bad. Instead, Tokyo should adopt policies that promote an international division of labour according to

comparative advantage."

pointed out. "By relocating declining industries abroad and liberalising imports, Japanese producers and consumers should realise gains in real income by lowering the nation's cost of production and imports. "More important, the resulting growing prosperity among Asian countries will promote stability in the Asia-Pacific region and thus Japan's national

Arab Gulf markets opening up to private capital

states are developing their financial markets and sellins off more shares in government-owned firms to allow a greater role for private investors, a leading eco-

In reports published Wednesday, National Commercial Bank chief econom Henry Azzam said Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states could deepen their

opening them up to interna-tional investors.

"GCC share markets achieved tangible growth last year," Azzam said in reports published by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Khaleej and the

London-based Asharq Al "Markets in the region benefitted from great impetus given by Gulf governments which intend to grant the

stepping up its campaign to disrupt oil production and export in a bid to force Niger-

ia's military rulers to cede

power to detained politician

earnings of the current level

of losses in oil production is

not yet clear because the

strike has helped push up world oil prices to about \$18

The impact on Nigeria's

Moshood Abiola.

calender budget.

the economy and started programmes to sell some public sector compan the private sector," Mr. Azzam said.

He said international investors could play a greater role in regional stock markets once necessary limits have been set.

"For example, on how much a group could own in any one company, such as in Bahrain and Oman, and

granting foreign investors a

role in funds, as in Kuwait. he said. "This will strengthen demand for shares and en-

courage capital inflow." The market value of shares traded in the GCC's Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait stock markets in 1993 was about 40 per cent of the gross domestic product of the GCC, or \$77.

Mr. Azzam said in Bahrain, the first GCC coun-

velopment bonds, private companies have started to issue bonds. The aluminium npany Alba is due to issue a \$50 million bond this year.

Bahrain last mouth decided to allow foreigners residing in the country to trade in shares on the local stock market and plans mutual share listing with Omani companies in the first such step by two GCC states. an is to allow companies to set up investment

participation and Mr. Azzam said the government plans to sell more shares in industrial and services firms. Kuwait has launched a

mutual fund which allows foreigners to participate. Share trade in Saudi Arabia

is limited to Saudis. UAE and Qatar, which both have unofficial bourses, plan to set up official floors and Mr. Azzam said Qatar is to start issuing treasury bills before the end of the year.

financial markets further by Nigeria falls behind on debt servicing

LAGOS (R) — Militaryruled Nigeria, lacking debt relief from foreign creditors and hit by pro-democracy protests and strikes, has fal-

len behind in its debt repay-"We are not up to date in our debt repayments," a senior official of the central

bank told Reuters. The official gave no figures on the amount of the arrears on the roughly \$30 billion Nigeria owes mainly to West-

em governments. ance Minister Kalu Idika Kalu said in January Nigeria had embarked \$1.8 billion for debt servicing in 1994, leaving about \$7 billion to be negotiated for resche-

Nigeria's debt servicing arrears stood at \$4.54 billion at the end of 1993 and projected service obligations in 1994 amount to \$4.4 billion.

Faced with reduced foreign to the effects of the reintroduction of economic controls, there is pressure on available hard currency. obtained mainly from crude

oil earnings, say bankers. The situation has been compounded by an oil workers' strike, now in its sixth week. which industry sources say has cut crude oil output by at least 25 per cent.

The main striking oil union Nupeng said Tuesday it was tral bank official said.

Danish economy set for

expansion PARIS (AFP) - The Danish economy is set for expansion, though high structural unemployment continues, the OECD said Thursday in its

annual report on Denmark.

that weak domestic demand

"gave way to a robust expan-sion during 1993."

per barrel, \$4 higher than the price assumed in the 1994 The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said The seemingly intractable that "In sum, having climincrisis that has gripped Nigeria since former military presiated most of the imbalances built up in the 1980s, the dent Ibrahim Babangida can-Danish economy seems set for a period of expansion, celled results of the June 1993 vote that Mr. Abiola was set based on monetary and exto win has damaged the eco-nomy and reduced its rechange rate stability, relatively sound public finances and a favourable business climate."

venue prospects. But it added that "the least "The current political satisfactory feature (of the situation has really com-pounded our economic probeconomy) is the high rate of structural unemployment, lems," the central bank offiwhich may not be reduced cial said. Nigeria's Western creditors policies."

and trade partners, unhappy It warned that the main about the slow pace of demodanger is that, in adopting cratisation in the country and new policies to meet the unthe government abandonemployment challenge, "mement of IMF economic reasures may be taken that forms, are unlikely to be symcompromise the basis for pathetic to any request for steady long run growth, the debt relief on new funds. most immediate risk being a return to a "stop-go" cycle."
The OECD report noted

"We cannot start discussing with the Paris Club because we do not have an IMF clean bill of health," the cen-

Seoul tells conglomerates: Grow but with more public ownership

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea this week told the country's powerful con-glomerates they could keep on expanding, but only if they were financially solid and relaxed their hold on

company equity. The ruling was expected to immediately ease the government's controversial grip on at least six of the country's largest companies considered to have properly distributed ownerships, analysts said Wednesday.

The new policy by the finance ministry will give clear support to companies whose incial structures are considered solid and which allowed the public a greater share in their companies'

Under an amendment to the Antimonopoly and Fair Trade Act announced Monday, business groups affiliates were told to lower holdings in outside companies from the current 40 per cent of net assets to 25 per cent.

"The revision is meant to strengthen competitiveness among domestic companies prior to proposed full openness of our market," Kim Won-Joong, an official at the Fair Trade Commission, a state-run watchdog body, said Wednesday. But he added: "The new

policy is drawing criticism from domestic companies which regard it as tightened

restrictions.' Those groups meeting the proposed government criteria will be eligible for exemption from the 25 per cent ceiling

The ministry said that in consideration of the current business structures, six of the 547 subsidiaries affiliated with 30 conglomerates were likely to be free from the new restrictions on owners' holding limits.

They are Daewoo Heavy Industries Ltd., Daewoo Electronics Co., Daewoo Telecom Ltd., Lucky-Goldstar International Corp., Kumbo Construction Co. and Haitai Electronics

Some 128 subsidiaries of the top 30 conglomerates had invested more than 25 per cent of their net worth in 1, which would mean divesting to the public their combined excess investment, valued at 2.6 trillion won

(\$3.2 billion). These companies would be given a three-year grace period to dispose of their excess equities, ministry officials said.

Economic analysts expressed doubts over the effectiveness of the amendment.

investment in outside companies would threaten companies seeking to ensure fu-ture survival by investing in

outside firms. The grace period uniformly given for the equity sell-offs would cost heavily, they said.

"The revision was designed to accelerate competitiveness in business, but it may bring an adverse effect," said Lee Yong-Hwan, an executive manager at the Federation of Korea Industries, a business lobbying group.

RJ , PIA sign agreement

Pursuant to the previous meetings held between Royal Jordanian and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) which aim at enhancing and strengthening various aspects of cooperation and coordination in various fields between the two airlines, an agreement has been signed on Sunday, Aug. 7, 1994, between RJ and PIA for the purchase of PIA automation system (Cossap III) by Royal Jordanian for their implementation in domestic and out station.

Abu Shakra launches new perfume for men Director General of Abu imagination, passion and

Shakra Trading Agency Rami Abu Shakra Tuesday introduced a new perfume for men, at a special conference held for this purpose. Mr. Abu Shakra said e new perfume "JOINT", from Roco Parocco, combines features which makes it a unique perfume for men. JOINT is a new perfume combining

※ DAJANI'S

attention. Its nice smell takes use back to a long time ago when perfume was not a mere brand name, but also a dream, an idea and a message, Mr. perfume will be on sale to the public at Abu Shakra stores, perfume selling outlets and pharmacies.

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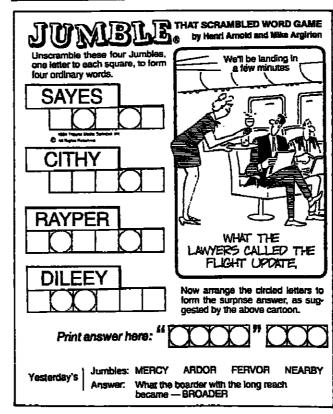








"I'm the Marriage Fairy! I'll grant you three wishes if you turn off that darn TV for one evening!"



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THE Daily Crossword by James Barries

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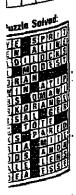
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Cerrency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 STHS	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.31	4.61	5.06	5-52
Sterting Pound	1.73	5.31	5.68	6.37
Degische Mark	4.75	3.75	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.58	5.31	5.50	5.87
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.18	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.59	5.81	6.00	6.31

	Date: 10'8.'1994		
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Vollar	3.6960	0.6980	
Sterling Pound	1.0703	1.0757	
Deutsche Mark	0.4405	0.4427	
Swiss Franc	0.5225	0.5251	
French Franc	0.1266	0.1292	
Japanese Yen	0.6867	0.6901	
Dutch Guilder	C.3920	0:3940	
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Other Currencies	Date	: 10:8/1994
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Bahrami Dinar	1.5300	1.8450
Lebanese Lira	0.040465	0.041875
Saudi Kışal	0.1853	0.1862
Kuwaiti Dinur	2.3050	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1918
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7870	1.6040
UAF Dirham	0.1889	0.1898
Greek Drachma	0.2675	0.3125
Cypriot Pound	1.3785	1.5015

Nickel prices slump as Siberian exports flood market

LONDON (R) — Nickel piled at a Siberian mine in the prices fell sharply on Wednesday as metal stock-

Arctic Circle during the winter started to pour into the from Tuesday.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

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101.22/32 7.7834/34 6.9038/88 6.2230/80 \$1.5375/85

touched a three-month low of \$5,760 a tonne, down \$110

"Short-term fundamentals for nickel have turned from mildly positive to mildly bearish in the summer quar-

On the London Metal Ex- to rise during this period," change (LME) prices said metal researcher Angus Macmillan of LME brokers

> Billion-Entheven. Nickel, whose main use is in stainless steel, has lost 16 per cent of its value since the end of May but is still well above the lows reached late

Shareholders of beleaguered Russian company MMM shareholders (gaithered outside the

MMM embark on an early morning protest in office of the company) vote in support of Red Square Wednesday demanding 'freedom organising their own party in a struggle for for Sergey Mavrody' (banner on left) who is their rights. The events surrounding the

incarcerated in the prison of the tax office in MAIN financial crisis are developing more and Moscow. Below, with a show of raised hands, more into political issues (AFP photo)

Traders said Wednesday's drop, in a market already worried by the increased shipments from Russia, was

sparked by news that stocks had risen in LME-registered warehouses. Mr. Macmillan said if prices failed to hold around

\$5,800, they could fall as low as \$25,000.

LME warehouse stocks now stand at 135,660 tomes, near record highs. Three years ago there was just 2,500 tonnes in store.

Traders said exports would increase over the next few months from Russia's huge North mine, one of the most northerly in the world in an isolated area with a population of some 300,000.

Before the break-up of the Soviet Union, nuclearpowered ice-breakers would clear a path through the Arctic ice to ensure a steady supply even during winter. Now, the exporters prefer to save their transport costs and hold on to the metal until the winter is over. Flooding as the ice melts around the port of Dudinka means another couple of months until late July before nickel can start moving overseas markets.

"Russian production and export levels to the west are a major uncertainly in the nickel market," seid David Wil-hamson of mining analysis David Williamson Assocaites.

"It is estimated that exports from this source are expected to the to 70,000 tonnes in the second half of 1994, against 44,020 tonnes in the first half," Mr. Williamson added.

Japanese firm to set up major computer plant in UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — A computer giant is planning to set up the first Japanese manufacturing unit in the United Arab Emi-rates (UAE), officials said Wednesday. System Al Co. Ltd. pad

originally planned to base the computer and ocumunication systems project in Hong Kong but shifted to the Dubai Jebel Ali free zone after talks with UAE officials in Tokyo and a visit to the zone, the Dubai Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board (DCTPB) said.

"The new plant will be the first ever Japanese manufacturing operation in the zone," DCTPB chief executive Khalid Bin Sylayem said in a statement.

This is an important milestone in Dubai's development as a manufactur-ing base for high technology companies. We are particularly pieased because System Al had originally planned to set up their plant in Hong Kong.

The plant, to be called SAI Gulf FZE, will initially produce computer systems and software to establish a strong marketing base in the Micdie East, System AI president Junichi Ishikawa said. It will later manufacture computers and communication systems, he added.

There were no initial available figures for investment costs and estimated output.

Several other Japanese firms are already established in the free zone having set up mainly discribution and marketing centers. They in-clude Nissan, Murata Machinery, Honda, Yamaha, Aiwa, Sony. Casio and Tokai.

Jebei Ali, established in 1985, is the biggest free zone in hie region, with more than 450 companies and investments reaching \$1 billion.

According to a study by the Dubai-based Gulf Business Machines company, the com-puter market in the region is growing by as much as 10 per cent annually. It estimated computer and software sales at more thn \$1 billion a year.

Lebanon expects to produce 18,000 tonnes of sugar

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon expects to produce about 18,000 tonnes of white sugar in 1994, an ordicial of the directory of cereals and sugar beet said

"Initial estimates show the sugar beet crop will be the same as last year's" the efficial said. All of last year's sugar beet crop was proces-sed locally into 18,000 tonnes of sugar.

The official said the directory would buy the whole crop in September from farmers and process it into sugar - at a cost of about 27 billion fire (\$16 million).

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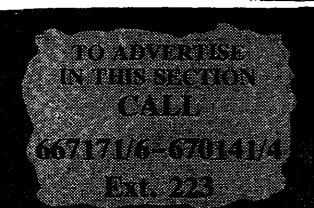
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Dream Team rips Australia

TORONTO (AFP) — Dream Team E added insuits to embarrassment on the way to their most lopsiced victory vet at the World Basketcall Championships.
Reggie Miller scored 31

points and the U.S. team of National Basketball Association (NBA) stars rolled over Australia 130-74 in a quarterfinal round robin game here Tuesday.

"I found myself embarrassed by the score," Australian coach Barry Barnes said. "When you lose by that much, you should be embarressed. But team will bounce back and come out the better

Taunts and comments by U.S. players during the blowout surprised the Australians. "They certainly had a lot to

sav," said Andrew Baze, who had 23 points in to remain the lournament's top scorer. 'Some of it was quite humor-ಲಚ. Some I wouldn't want to repeat. Everyone had something to say.

We were taken a little off grand at the way they were "I had a bit of a Spike flashback," Miller said. it's normal. We're from a seemed like a lot," Baze said.

Miller, known for taunting. said players were only enoving themselves after dunks or long shots. The U.S. team made 14 of 22 3-point attempts.

"I would prefer not to have my team trash talk," U.S. coach Don Nelson said. "if we did, we will talk about it." In the other quarterfinal

match Tuesday, Sergei Dazarevich scored 27 points and Russia remained unbeaten here by downing Puerto Rico 101-85. "Russia had the talent to

compete with the U.S. team." Puerto Richo coach Carlos Morales said. Australia stayed within

range for 14 minutes, but superior depth and talent kept the U.S. team perfect in eight world-level meetings with Australia.

Miller and Mark Price each made 5-of-6 3-point shots. Price finished with 17 points and Miller recalled his hot fourth quarter in the NBA playoffs after being taunted by New York fan Spike Lee. "I had a bit of a Spike Lee

Australia pulled ahead 17different culture. But it 10 on Shane Heal's 3-point shot 4:14 into the game. But

the U.S. team dominated once rested reserves entered. Shawa Kemp and Kevin Johnson sparked a 14-3 run late in the first half on the way to a 62-48 half-time bulge. Australia came no closer than 15 after that.

Puerto Rico had beaten the host Russians on the way to the Goodwill Games title earlier this month, so revenge was on Russian minds here. "We're happy to retaliate

for the absolutely horrible game we lost to them at the Good will Games,"
Bazarevich said.

Bazarevich scored eight points in a 20-7 Russian run that broke open a tight game in the final minutes. Russia took their largest lead at 95-79 on a Bazarevich jumper with 3:26 to play and Puerto Rico came no closer than 11 after that. "I'm completely satisfied.

but I'm completely dissatisfied with our defence," Russian coach Sergei Belov said. "There were a lot of mistakes, especially in positioning under the rim for re-

The victory puts Russia in a strong position to reach the semi-final, while dimming



Puerto Rico's hopes.

Sergei Babkov, who scored 20 points. "We showed our

strength in the second half. We remembered the loss from before. That's why we had a special attitude." Jose Oritz led Puerto Rico

Emachddin Mahmoud (left) and Sharif Al Sanadeli during their qualification game Tuesday at the World Basketball Championships (AFP photo)

"It was a must- win game for us to advance," said

Braun wins heptathlon at , European Championships

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Sabine Braun of Germany came from behind to win her second consecutive European championship heptathlon Tuesday, while host Finland gained its first title.

Sari Essayah of Finland won the women's 10kilometre walk in a European championship record of 42 minutes, 37 seconds. She was the world champion last year. Italian Annarita Sidoti

edged Russian Yelena Nikolayeva for the silver medal, both finishing six seconds behind the winner.

In the heptathion, Braun trailed Russian Svetlana Moskalets by 42 points, entering the javelin throw, the sixth of the seven events.

Braun took advantage of a poor throw by Moskalets to gain the lead, scoring more than 200 points better than the Russian in the javelin. Moskalets dropped to fifth entering the final event, the 800 metres.

Braun held her advantage and won the heptathlon with 6,419 points, just 15 points ahead of Rita Inancsi of Huagary. Urstula Wiodarczyk of Poland took third with 6,322

Moskalets, despite finishing the 800 means four seconds faster than Braun. stayed in fifth place, ending with 6,308 points, just three points behind the fourthplace finisher Larisa Turchinskaya of Russia with 6,311 points.

Braun won the European title in 1991 and took the world crown the following year when world recordholder Jackie Joyner-Kersee of the United States had to drop out with an injury after four events. At last year's world championships, Braun was second behind Joyner-

Earlier in the evening, Britain's Linford Christie received his medal for his 100metre victory Monday night. By winning his third consecutive European chamValery Borzov of the former Soviet Union, who won three consecutive European 100° metres over a five-year span when the European championships were held in 1969.

1971 and 1974. Christie's time this year wasn't fast, just 10.14.2 seconds, barely better than the 10.15 he recorded in winning his first European title?

eight years ago. In 1990 at Split he gained his second crown in 10.00 seconds.

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"I came here just to win the title. Now I have the championship, which is all that really matters," he said.

This year, Christic was sidelined three weeks with a left hamstring injury before the championships. He had not raced in 23 days before. Sunday. "I was very hungry, I

wanted to race," Christie said. "Once I knew I was over my injury, no one was, going to beat me. pionship title. Christie tied



Irina Privalova (left), winner of the women's 100m of the European Athletic Cham-pioaships, and bronze medallist Melani Paschke of Germany wave from the podium after

receiving facir medals Tuesday. Silver medal list Zhana Tarnopolskaya did not appear at the ceremony (AFP photo)

19-round decision, Wants to fight Foreman LONDON (R) — Europe's

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. (AP) — Looking forward to his third—and he promises, his izst - retirement, Larry Holmes plans to enjoy some

of lite's simple pleasures. ime; he plans to give box-ing's powers-that-be some most unpleasurable mo-

After winning a unanimous (Fround decision over Jesse Ferguson Tuesday night, the ----year-old tormer world heart veight champion said he would like to fight fellow old-timer George Foreman perfere retiring for good at the end of the year.

And then? "I would fish, learn how to tewnd bar and teach fighters how to fight," said Holmes, whose 61-4 record includes a 13-1 mark since he came out of retirement a second time in 1991. "And I would cause problems to the fighting game to make the sport more

legitimate." Holmes, the champion from 1978-85, claims he basn't gotten a title shot since he lost to Mike Tyson in 1988 because promoters don't like him. He has no use for the alchabet soup boxing divi-

"Sometimes there's no ruch thing as fairness. It's all who you know." he said, adding that maybe he'll just term his own boxing orga-nisation: "I would call it

Terguson might sign on if he thinks it will give him some justice.

He and his managers, Seth Branastein and Greg Cohen, rered with the capacity crowd of 2,574 at Mystic Lake Casino who thought he had won the fight and booed when the 97-94, 96-94, 99-92 decision was announced. "We've constantly had to

sattler losses to someone who might be in the better graces of beying's hierarchy,' Cohen sold.

has to work hard for his crumbs. To hear a score 99-92...that was a embarrassment to boxing. Give me a

break. After the decision was announced, Ferguson shook his head in disbelief. He then stood on the ropes and raised

Ferguson, 37, best known for beating Ray Mercer in 1993 after Mercer supposedly asked him to take a dive, fell

Ferguson threw most of the fight's hard shots but Holmes was more active, scoring with dozens of left jabs — the punch that fuelled his sevenyear championship run. "He showed one good

punch every other round," said Holmes, who was staggered by an overhead right in the second round but otherwise seemed unfazed by Ferguson's attack. "Landing one punch every other round doesn't win a fight. It doesn't even win a round. Jesse might have thrown 10, 15 punches a round and you just can't win like that. I averaged

Holmes, who felt he got shortchanged in title-fight losses to Michael Spinks in 1985 and 1986, empathized with Ferguson.

"The game is not always fair," he said. "I was the champion of the world for 7 vears. Jesse has never been a champion. It's called boxing politics and it's going to hap-pen. But I won the fight." And he feels he can win

one more. "It would be historic, George Foreman and me. But George is afraid. Unless he can whup someoine's butt, he doesn't want to fight," Holmes said.

"We don't have too much in this game left. I realise that. If I fight again, great. If I don't, so be it. I don't need boxing. I've already made my place in history.'

Holmes, after winning Tough baptism for UEFA Cup's new nations

new nations struggled to put themselves on the soccer map when they made an inausp cious debut in a greatly-expanded UEFA Cup late Tuesday.

While debutants from Armenia and Azerbaijan were given a roasting welcome to top-class soccer, former European trophy winners Aberdeen were being held to an embarrassing 0-0 draw in Latvia.

Scotland's Aberdeen, former Cup Winners' Cup holders, drew 0-0 with Skonto Riga in the biggest upset of the first leg of the UEFA Cup preliminary round as the Euro-pean chibs competitions began an unusually early start to the season.

Armenians Ararat Erevan lost 3-0 at CSKA Sofia in Bulgaria while Turkey's Fenerbahce thrashed Touran of Azerbaijan 5-0 in their tirst-leg tie in Istanbul. although .two; of the goals came in the last minutes.

Aykut Kocaman scored twice, in the 44th and 66th minutes, after Bulent Uygun opened the scoring in the

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —

Turkish soccer star Tanju

Colak was detained in Mace-

donia and could be extradited

to Turkey to face sentencing

for an auto smuggling convic-

tion, a Turkish newspaper

in European soccer in the

1987-88 season, fled the

country shortly before Tur-

key issued an arrest warrant

for him. He was arrested

Tuesday at a friend's house in

Macedonia, a newspaper re-

reported from the Macedo-

nian capital Skopje that Col-

ak was questioned by a judge

who ordered him jailed until

The Istanbul daily Milliyet

ported.

reported Wednesday. Colak, the leading scorer 15th minute. Their Danish striker Nielsen Converted a free-kick in the 81st.

With UEFA expanding the tournament from 64 to 91 teams following the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, and the reduction in size of the European Cup, the glut of UEFA Cup entries demanded an enlarged preliminary round.

Scotland's other preliminary-round representatives, Motherwell, made a predictably winning start with a 3-0 victory over Havnar Ecitielas of the Farce Islands, although the win was not achieved with the style and goal-feast the fans had

The biggest win of the night came in Poland where Gornik Zabrze thrashed Ireland's Shamrock Rovers 7-0. But the biggest scoreline was a 6-2 away win by Rapid Bucharest against Malta's

Valletta. Romanian international striker · Ioan Vladoiu missed the chance of completing a hat-trick when he failed to convert a last-minute penalty.

Turkish fugitive soccer star

detained in Skopje

Turkey relayed the necessary

documents for his extradi-

Milliyet published hand-

cuffed pictures of Colak

Upon returning to Turkey,

Colak faces 22 months in

prison and a fine of 772 mil-

lion liras (\$24,500). He was found guilty last year of kno-

wingly buying a smuggled car. An appeals court upheld

the conviction last month.

Colak previously said he

had left Turkey to train with

a local team in Macedonia

before flying to St. Peters-

burg for a game against Russia Aug. 7. But Russia later

cancelled Colak's invitation.

Colak gave contradictory

being escorted by police.

Vladoiu, who had just four minutes of action at the World Cup in America, net-ted in the 14th and 46th minutes on a sweltering night on the Mediterranean island.

The Maltese pulled the match back to 2-3 midway

through the second half but were then buried by three goals in the final 16 minutes. Slovan Bratislava of Slovakia, another former Cup Winners' Cup holder under the old national borders of Czechoslovakia, won 2-0 against Portadown in North-

ern Ireland. Former Weish and Arsenal goalkeeper George Wood made a return to Edropean football at the age of 41 but could not save Welsh side Inter Cardiff from a 2-0 defeat at home by GKS Katowice of Poland.

Another former Weish international, Mickey Thomas, was also in the side two months after being released from a prison sentence for passing forged bank notes. He was one of five players making their debut for the

statements about whether he

intended to return home or

not. He said he should be

pardoned just as the Argen-

tine government pardoned

soccer superstar Diego Mara-

The conviction effectively

ends Colak's career, because

Turkish sports regulations

forbid anyone sentenced for

certain crimes, including

smuggling, from playing pro-

Colak starred for the Istan-

bul team Galatasaray in the

late 1980s and for Fener-

bache in the early 1990s. His

career later went into decline

and he was transferred to

Istanbulspor in the second

sage," said Greenpeace's

Police will be on increased

alert during the games and

activists say they have been

told they must confine their

activities to out-of-the-way

George Heller, president of the games society, said he expects protests but vows

they won't disrupt events.

"I'm not worried about it.

They have every right to de-

monstrate but they can do it

without interfering," he said.

Tamara Stark.

locations.

fessionally again.

dona for drug offences.

Danish champions threaten pay strike

COPHENHAGEN (R) Denmark captain Lars Olsen said Wednesday the European champions will go on

bonus payments. The pay row threatens next Wednesday's friendly against Finland in Cophenagen as well as the campaign to qualify for the next Enropean soccer finals, beginning with an away game against Macedonia Sept. 7.

"We are not going to play again until we've got a new pay deal with bonus arrangements. It's no joke, we are professionals after all." Olsen said.

he Danish soccer team have been negotiating a new pay deal for 1994-96 with the association for several months but have failed to reach agreement on player

muses.
"All I can say is that we have still not found a solution to the team's demands. We plan to contact them again," Danish Football Association information officer Lars Berendt said.

According to media reports, the football association is refusing to accept team demands for profit-sharing bonuses on top of their normai salaries.

on the visitors or atheletes,"

Ironically, the beleaguered

games society has done its

best to court the "politically

correct" movement. It is

trumpeting efforts to expand

the roles of women and the

disabled in the competition.

oting the culture and tradi-

The games are also prom-

she said.

Benetton rapped over fire

PARIS (AFP) - A filter which would have prevented the flash fire that engulfed the Benetton car of Jos Vetstappen at the German's Grand Prix had been "deliberately removed," officials said Wednesday.

Benetton have been summoned to an October 19 meeting of the World Council of FIA, motor sports' governing body, to exclain why the part was missing from the refuelling system.

Detch driver Verstangen and three mechanics escaped with superficial burns when the fire proke out during a refuelling stop. After studying a report

from Intertechnique, the French firm which provides grand prix refuelling systems, FIA said in a statement: "The fuel spillage was caused by a valve failing to close properly. The valve was slow to close due to the presence

of a foreign body.
"The foreign body is be-lieved to have reached the valve because a filter de-

signed to eliminate the risk had been deliberately re-. moved."

Undar FlA rules such a equipment "must not be modified in any way whatscever." The summons adds to Be-

netton's problems with their German driver Michael Schumacher who is appealing ignoring a black flag at the recent British Grand Prix.

The team are also under : suspicion for allegedly disquising a computerised startng system in the world championship leder's car. No proof that the team used the

system has emerged. A German auto magazine, Motorsport Aktuell, said in its latest edition that Schumacher's start at Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix will be monitored from the air.

A helicopter will follow the driver from the starting grid looking for clues such as the absence of tire marks, the magazine said

Brazil choose new manager

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Mario Zagalo has been appointed Brazil's next coach to replace Carlos Alberto Parreira, who quit after Brazil won the USA World Cup. In his third stint as national

coach Zagalo, who was 63 on Tuesday, will have wider powers than Perreira, a cording to Brazil Football F. deration President Ricardo Teix-

Zagalo won the World Cup twice as a player, in 1958 and 1962, and coached Brazil to victory in 1970 in his second stint in charge from 1970-74. His first spell lasted only one game, the 1-0 win against Chile in 1967.

Teixeira siad Zagalo will take over the Olympic side as well as the full international squad and will also have responsibility for international iumor sides. He will attempt to win the

only major trophy to escape Brazilian football, the Olym-

pic gold medal.

Zagalo's first game in the hot seat will be in November when Brazil take on the rest of the world in a charity."

In the United States Zagalo was assistant to Perreira, who has since joined Spanish league club Valencia as

Effenberg back to Germany

BONN (R) — Steffan Effenberg, the gifted German midfielder sent home from the World Cup in disgrace, has signed on loan for his old Bundesliga side Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Effenberg, 26, who has had a turbulent relationship over the years with both fans and coaches, was flown nome from the United States after making an obscene gesture to fans during Germany's match with South Korea.

National coach Berd Vogts said he would never pick him again for the German team. Effenberg's return from Italy's Fiorentina made him one of a flood of Germans to return from the lucrative Sene A before the new season and the biggest signing myears for Borussia, who have not won a championship. since their five titles between 1970 and 1977.

Werder Bremen, the 1993champions, negotiated with... Effenberg at the weekend but failed to agree terms.

Borussia's manager Rolf Ruessmann said he hoped German fans would give their prodigal a warm welcome and forget he had been sent pome.

"Our fans want him, aid away from home we hope !.. people will give him 2 chance. During our negotiations he showed he wants to make a fresh start," Ruessz. .

A salvists plan to use Commonwealth Games to publicise their cause can to ensure the public doesn't buy into their meswe see soing to take it out

victoria, British Coltabbit (R) — Activists in campaigns as diverse as the environment an anticolonialism are planning to use the international media presence at this month's Commonwealth Games to draw attention to their cause. "We want to make sure the

'n

world media is aware of these issues....There's a fascist side to Canada that gets hidden. Some of our actions will be spectacular," said environmental campaigner Carrie St.

Most activists say they won't try to disrupt the sporting events, but promise attention-grabbing stunts, picketing and other action. They refuse to say what

ther are planning but have previously chained themselves to logging machinery. compled buildings and unfuried buge banners from prominent buildings. An environmental group in

nearby Seattle is asking tour-

ists not to flush the lavatory

during their stay in Victoria in protest at the city's dumping of untreated sewage into

A local man, Fin Donnelly, plans to swim 30km across the freezing waters of the nearby Georgia Strait to draw attention to the need to protect ocean waterways.

About 200 people are planning to set up a camp in Victoria where they will hold railies on issues ranging from native Indian rights, anticolonialism, homosexual rights and women's poverty.

Most of the protests will centre on the environment. The hottest issue is logging in the rain forests of Vancouver Island not far form Victoria. Logging forms the basis of

the regional economy and the

forests, especially one in an

area called Clayoquout

Sound, have become an environmental battleground. Environmental groups such as Greenpeace have started international campaigns to persuade consum-

ers to boycett British Col-umbia forest products. Last yeaar, more than 800 protesors were arrested for blocking logging roads at Clayoquot Sound.

More than 3,300 athletes from 67 countries are taking part in the games and some 2,500 journalists are expected to cover the events, some of which will draw international television audience of up to 300 million. About 70,000 extra visitors

are expected to converge on this west coast city for the games which run from August 18-28. Tourism is the top money spinner in Victoria, established in the 1850s as a British

colonial outpost and de-

scribed as more English than England. "We're projecting \$50 million Canadian (\$36 million U.S.) in increased tourism revenues this year and most of that is games related," said Lorne Whyte, chief executive of Victoria's tourist board.

Despite rosy forecasts, two weeks before the games were due to open, only just over half — 195,000 of a total 357.000 tickets — had been

The organisers deny any lack of interest and say they expect strong ticket sales in the remaining days. They ahve already covered all their costs, they add. The games organising com-

crittee is billing them as "en-vironmentally friendly" because of efforts to recycle and minimise environmental damage. The official mascot is a smiling killer whale, native to

paint an accurate picture of

what's going

the woods

The Commonwealth, which groups former British colonies, is being targetted by local waters. But environsome protestors as a legacy of imperialism, said St. Pierre of mentalists say this is part of an attempt to whitewash the the gorup friends of Clavoprovince's bad environmental cast Scune. record and cover up problends.
"It's disturbing and doesn't

"We're against oppression. and colonialism is definitely a of that. That's why we no problem targeting Commonwealth, but

tions of Canadian Indians. An armada of 40 native Canadian Indian dugout canoes will converge on Victoria carrying a message from Queen Elizabeth II which she

will read to open the games.

The world's largest totem pole — 55 metres high — has been carved in honour of the games and native artists have designed the medals. Organisers say this is only

fitting because Victoria and the surrounding area rightfully belonged to the Indians when white settlers arrived here more than a century

Hi-tech balloonists set sights high for autumn bid

THE HAGUE (AFP)—The later, he is going to run out of pinnacle of the ballooning world could finally be world could finally be world could finally be world will need far too much bot air of fuel on propelling themtive desired in the second sec three world-class Dutch flyers make a bid to circle the globe in a balloon — without

c's time this lee fast, just 10 li But only the latest hi-tech design will ultimately determine whether flying instruc-tor Henk Brink and his cohe recorded in at first European in pilots will live up to their reputation as the first Europat Spili he Bank is crown in 100 cans to balloon across the Atlantic.

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rs ago.

The secret of the Holland Now I have the Flyer — the 66 metre, 10.5 (yard)tonne monster in which Strice Place is a they are planning to make the trip this autumn — lies in its double envelope.

An explanation. Normal belium balloons suffer from an inbuilt exhaustion factor. Every time the pilot wants to. go down, he releases some gas. When he wants to go up again, he releases some bal-

The problem is, sooner or

and ballast to make the trip

The solution: Brink's balloon has two envelopes. One contains 25,000 cubic metres of belium, an ultra-light and non-flammable gas. The other is full of air, heated up

The envelope is made of mylar, an ultra-light material which does not absorb the sunlight. Suspended underneath is the aluminium capsule which will house the team followed by cylinders containing three tonnes of

The aim of the project is to use the fast-flowing winds of the Jet Stream, racing across the northern hemisphere at an altitude of 30,000 to 40,000 feet (10,000 to 13,000

Thus the intrepid flyers will

selves forwards.

The Jet Stream, caused by the reaction of hot subtropical air and cold polar air, is most powerful in the winter - hence their estimated departure date towards the end of the autumn, In all they plan to cover a minimum of 15,827 (some 28,500 kilometres).

The Dutch team, who have recruited Scottish aeronautics expert Don Cameron to help design the canopy and Briton Per Lindstrand for other equipment, are not alone in hoping to make the balloonist's dream come true. Rival teams led by Amer-

icans Larry Newman, Richard Abruzzo and David Melton, with the strangelynamed Earthwind Hilton, are planning to make a fifth attempt on the round-theworld trip this autumn.



Stich, Chang cruise into third round at ATP championship

MASON, Ohio (R) - Third seed Michael Stich of Germany and defending champion Michael Chang posted quick and decisive second round victories at the ATP championship late Tuesday.

Former Wimbledon champion Stich unleashed 10 aces and broke American Aaron Krickstein's serve three times to roll into the third round with a 6-2 6-4 win in just 62

The speedy Chang, seeded fourth, needed two more minutes to wipe out Canadian Greg Rusedski 6-3 6-3.

Seventh-seeded former world number one Jim Courier, who along with the other top eight seeds received a first-round bye, also adv-anced easily with a 6-4 6-2 win over fellow American

But another player who

and wildcard entry Mats the first set and fifth game of Wilander lost a 6-4 6-4 first the second set. round match to 112th-ranked American Jim Grabb.

The tournament lost its sixth sed when ninth-ranked Todd Martin was forced to withdraw with a strained right groin.

Stich, who has had his troubles in the past with veteran baseliner and long match specialist Krickstein, used his big serve to keep the

"I don't like playing Aaron too much," Stich said. "He normally keeps you on the baseline and works you a long time.
"I served really well and

kept him under pressure the whole time," Stich said. "He couldn't play his game and he had to react to my game."
Stich, who never lost his

ing in the world did not fare serve, secured service breaks as well. Sentimental favourite in the third and fifth game of

Chang outgunned the big serving Canadian, even coming up with three more aces than the two delivered by

The seventh-ranked American was also more consistent from the service line than Rusedski. The Canadian. ranked 58th, double faulted nine times while Chang never faielkdto get in a playable

second serve. Change did not have to do much to finish off Rusedski. Three of his nine double faults came in the last game, including the final two ponits of the match.

Today was not that difficult," Chang said. "I'm pretty hungry at the moment. I haven't done anything much in my last few tournaments."

Martinez beats Raymond in Slims second round

MANHATTAN BEACH. Calif. (AP) — Top-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain overcame a second-set letdown to beat Lisa Raymond 6-0, 3-6, 6-1 Tuesday in a second-round match of the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles women's tennis

Martinez, ranked third in the world and the winner at Wimbledon this summer. needed just 20 minutes to win the first set without losing a game. But Raymond, ranked 53rd, became more aggressive and committed fewer unforced errors in winning the second set.

However, Martinez regained control and breezed past Raymond in the third set, winning the final games of the 84-minute match.

"I played a perfect first t," Martinez said. "I didn't make any mistakes. She got more aggressive in the second set, and I couldn't pass her. In the third set, I was moving her around a lot. I have practiced a lot of passing shots and they were working.
"I knew it would be a tight
match."

"I got off to a bad start, then I got better and she started making a few un-forced errors," Raymond said. "And then she was making those passing shots. It was very frustrating. She was passing me from the

angles, and I just had no confidence on my serve." In other second-round acthe Neitherlands 6-2, 6-1; taken by Mercedes Paz of No. 7 Julie Halard of France Argentina.

‡Q4 ₹9643

V 194 • K 4 3 2 WEST EAST • J 10 9 8 3 4 K 7 2 • Q 10 5 0 J 8 7 • 8 0 K 7 6 5 2

SOUTH

A 10 6

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 + Pass
3 O Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of 4
"What's so tough about a straightforward finesse?" was our first reaction when shown the diamond suit in this hand. We would have ignored it completely had we not seen two relatively experienced players go wrong in identical situations within days of being given this hand.

+ J 5

THE RINESSE IS SIMPLE

No. 9 Nathalie Tauziat of France breezed past Andra Keller 6-2, 6-0.

In second-round action under the lights, No. 4 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic beat Karin Kschwendt of Germany 6-3, 6-2 in just 57 minutes and No. 5 Zina Garrison Jackson rallied for a 4-6. 6-3, 6-4 victory over Debbie Graham. Garrison Jackson trailed 4-1 in the third set before winning five straight

The final seven first-round matches also were played Tuesday. Tenth-seeded Amy Frazier beat Andrea Strnadova of the Czech Republic 6-0, 4-1, retired; no. 12 Patty Ferdick topped Caroline Kuhlman 6-4, 7-6 (10-8); Melissa Mazzotta of Venezuela downed Rachel McQuillan of Australia 6-4, 7-5; Alexia Dechaume-Balleret of France eliminated Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia 6-3, 6-1; Sandrine Testud of France beat Manon-Bollegraf of the Netherlands 6-1, 7-6 (7-3); Christina Singer of Germany topped Joanette Kruger of South Africa 7-5, 7-5, and Laura Golarsa of Italy beat

Serra-Zanetti 6-2, 6-4. Strnadova retired from her match against Frazier because of a strained lower

Meanwhile, third-seeded Linday Davenport informed officials early in the day that baseline, she was hitting good she was withdrawing from the tournament because of a pulled calf muscle in her left leg. Davenport was not schetion Tuesday, sixth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany eliminated Stephanie Rottier of place in the draw is being

North checked on the possibility of a 4-4 heart fit, then settled for three

clarer tried the queen just in case, then took the ace of spades when East produced the king (There was

no point to holding up, since the diamond finesse, necessary for

diamond imesse, necessary too South to come to nine tricks, would have to be taken into the danger hand anyway.) Everything now hinged on the location of the king of diamonds.

Declarer crossed to the king of

chibs and ran the jack of diamonds, which won. The next diamond fi-nesse, however, had to be taken with the ten of diamonds in hand and

declarer had no dummy entry for a marked third-round finesse in the suit. Since the monarch was still

well guarded, declarer had to be sat-isfied with eight tricks.

Just a little more careful tech-nique was all that was needed to bring home nine tricks. After cross-

ing to the king of clubs, declarer

should lead the *nine* of diamo from the table, playing low from hand. When that wins, declarer con-

Connors says he has played his last U.S. Open

HARRISON, New York (R) - Jimmy Connors' love affair with the U.S. Open is a thing of the past, a fond memory that will not be re-lived, the five-time champion

has said. For more than two decades the site of Jimmy Connors battling on centre court on his birthday has been one of the great traditions of the U.S. Open. But Connors, who turns 42 Sept. 2, said he has definitely played his last U.S. Open.

There is no more toying with the idea, my time playing the open is over," Connors told Reuters Tuesday in a telephone interview from the site of a tournament on his 35-and-over champions

"I can't play forever, even if it seems I have," he joked. "It's time for all those young guys to take over."

Connors, the only man in history to win the U.S. Open on three different surfaces grass, clay and hardcourt played his 22nd and last open m 1992 when he celebrated

his 40th birthday by beating Jaime Oncins in the first round before going out to Ivan Lendi in the second. Tennis fans will long relish the memory of Connors' stirring run to the semifinals the previous year, when he took

Though he still plays occasionally on the ATP tour, has just finished a season of teamtennis, and is entered in all eight events this year on the senior circuit, Connors says he is no longer up to the gruelling open fortnight of best-of-five set matches.

the open by storm one last

"To be able to go in and feel right and only give it an half

effort, I would not like to play like that before the New York fans and it is better to

let it go by," he said. Connors lost in the opening round at his first U.S. Open in 1970, but the fiery left-hander went on to become the tournament's most identifiable star.

His titles spanned two decades as he collected U.S. Open crowns in 1974 and 1976 at the Grand Slam tournament's former home in Forest Hills and added championships in 1978, 1982 and 1983 at the current site in Flushing Meadow. Connors was also runner-up in 1975 and 1977.

"I always saved my best tennis for New York," said Connors, who also owns the U.S. Open record for most matches won (98) and most matches played (115).

siders his 1991 run at the national tennis centre one of his greatest feats as he confounded the experts and astounded the tennis world by reaching the final four.

That extraordinary journey including a remarkable rally from two sets down against Patrick McEnroe in the first round and his fourth round miracle fifth set tie-break victory over Aaron Krickstein on his 39th birthday.

That was the culmination of 21 years of hard work," said Connors, who was finally beaten by Jim Courier in the

"The people came out and went into a frenzy and sounded more like 60,000 people than 20,000 and sent my game to another level.

"I didn't even have to win the tournament to make it

Jimmy Connors

Simpson's lawyers, prosecutors discuss mystery envelope, agree on closing records

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Both sides in the O.J. Simpson case sought Tuesday to id gown on diethal dud licity, agreeing to privately discuss the contents of the mysterious yellow envelope turned over by defence attorneys and to keep secret Nicole Brown Simpson's

medical records. During an evidence hearing, attorneys sniped at each other about news leaks but found themselves allied against the media, arguing about Simpson's right to a fair trial vs. the public's right

to know. Simpson, sitting at the counsel table, appeared con-cerned about the publicity and pace of the case. He shook his head as a media lawver argued news reporters **GOREN BRIDGE** should be allowed to view police photos of the bloody victims. Later, Simpson flinched when the judge sug-gested the trial might last

until Christmas. Simpson, the former football star and media celebrity, is charged with murder in the June 12 slashings of his exwife and her friend, Ronald Goldman. If convincted he would receive the death penalty. Prosecutors told the judge Tuesday they would announce their decision the last week of this month on whether to seek the death

penalty. The trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 19. Following the one-hour hearing, defence attorneys and prosecutors met behind

closed doors with superior court judge Lance Ito to discuss one of the most tantaliscase: The contents of the eavelope turned over by the defence last month.

Deputy district attorney Marcia Clark said holding the session in open court would be unfair to Simpson.

'It would be self-defeating to do so at this time," she

Defence attorney Robert Shapiro agreed the matter should be discussed privately. But media lawyer Kelli Sa-

ger, representing the Gannet Co. newspaper Chain, urged the judge to at least consider releasing a transcript of the closed-door meeting, saying the public has a constitutional right to have access to court proceedings. Several other news organisations joined in Sager's motion.

This same right, she said, justifies the release of transcripts of other closed sessions. She also sought media access to grisly crime-scene photographs, saying repor-ters would view the pictures but not publish or broadcast

Public interest, she said, "makes it even more important in this case that the proceedings be as open as possible so that the public can have confidence that the proceedings occurred in a fair and just manner." She said defence and prosecutors failed give detailed proof that disclosure could violate Simpson's right to a fair trial.

meeting on the envelope. tion that the defence would Lawyers met for about 30 argue a white detective in the the session was adjourned.

Ito said he would decide

Friday whether to release transcripts of such closed court sessions and whether the media may see the crime scene photos.

Prosecutors and defence attorneys also agreed to keep private Ms. Simpson's hospit-al records from St. John's Hospital and Health Centre in Santa Monia, Calif.

What the records documented - and even what time period they reflected — were unknown. But St. John's is where Ms. Simpson was treated after she was beaten by Simpson in 1989, police records show.

During their discussion of making material public, Sha-piro and Clark clashed on the issue of news leaks. She accused the defence team of "outrageous and unfounded accusations," apparently re- Aug. 17.

Ito agreed to the private ferring to a published suggesand might have fabricated evidence against Simpson, who is black.

Shapiro said "race is not and will not be an issue in this case," and denied that any lawvers on his team had discussed evidence with reporters. He said they had only answered questions about

Also Tuesday, deputy dis-trict attorney William Hodgman told the court that prosecutors were sharing evidence asked for by the defence and should have most requests answered by next week. Shapiro agreed the process was going well.

Hodgman said there were only 'a couple of small points" of disagreement on what sort of background information should be shared. Another hearing on evidence-sharing was set for

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trump opening bid has been lowered to 21-22 high-card points. The old-lashioned 22-24 points is now shown by first opening two clubs and then rebidding two no trump. tinues with the jack, underplaying the ten. Now declarer is still on the table for a third finesse, scoring four tricks in diamonds and the contract.

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Riemon, the 100 negotiated, and at the weekendlad Tel.: 675571 Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 634144 Tel.: 699238 Nabil Al Mashini Theatre AHLAN THEATRE **PHILADELPHIA** PLAZA Cinema and Theatre s manager hore is would give the warm welcome the had been get. :Sharihan-Mahmoud Hamideh --The Cutting Edge Hussein Fahrts in Present their play Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Richard Gere/Sharon Stone Today & Everyday WHAT A PLACE! Shows; 12:30, 3:30, 6:00 Abu, Awwad in social comedy (Salam Ya Salam) T is want him be home we him it give him it give account Women's market Starting Aug. 24 the political play INTERSECTION "PUNCTURED BAG" Daily at 8 30 pen. The theatre is closed on Tue "SAHRA KANAUNIEH" ROBINHOOD Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m. ดลงร Shows:12:30, 3:30, 6:16, 8:30, 10:30 Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Majali gets cable from Christopher

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Wednesday received a cable from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressing his appreciation of the prime minister's relentless efforts in the peace process. Mr. Christopher pledged that the United States would pursue efforts to overcome the remaining challenges and obstacles in the path of pece

IAF stresses opposition to peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF), Wednesday reiterated rejection of the Middle East peace process and all Arab-Israeli agreements and declarations signed and issued since the process was launched in 1991 in Madrid. In a statement issued at a press conference, the IAF called on all popular and political institutions and forces in the Kingdom to confront the negotiations and their results by preparing scientific and practical plans to fight dangers inherent in normalising relations with Israel. The front stressed in the statement, read by its spokesman Hamzeh Mansour, that Palestine is the property of "the whole nation" and urged the mass media to open "the channels for the opposition." They also called on the government to respect public freedoms, release all political prisoners and stop chasing mosque preachers. Countering Mr. Mansour's statement, Justice Minister Hisham Al Tel denied that there were any political prisoners in Jordan.

Weizman cuts iail terms for 8 Palestinian women

TEL AVIV (AP) - Israel reduced sentences for eight Palestinian women prisoners Wednesday, clearing the way for their release within days. A statement announcing the move from President Ezer Weizman's office was issued shortly before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was meeting Yasser Arafat for their first summit in Gaza. It also came after Mr. Rabin's wife, Leah, intervened following a promise during a joint appearance July 13 on ABC Television with Mr. Arafat's wife, Suha. Prisoner releases, which Mr. Arafat was expected to bring up with Mr. Rabin, are an essential confidence building measures for keeping up Palestinian public support for the peace agreement. Mr. Weizman's spokeswoman Batia Keinan gave no reasonwhy he was freeing the eight. They were among a list of women prisoners serving time for anti-Israeli offences. Mrs. Keinan wouldn't give their names or details about their alleged crimes, except to say that none had blood on their hands, meaning they were not involved in any fatal attacks. Israel initially promised to free the women last week, but Mr. Weizman insisted on fuller explanations about their cases, Israel Radio said.

Kuwali studying Iran war games idea

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is studying an invitation from Iran to conduct joint military exercises, its defence minister was quoted on Wednesday as saying. Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Sabah added he would discuss the invitation at a meeting with defence ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries before the end of the year, newspapers reported. "We will discuss the Iranian request to carry out joint manoeuvres with our armed forces in the next meeting of the GCC defence ministers," he was reported as saying on Tuesday. The GCC comprises six Gulf Arab states — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — and has set up in 1981 in part to counter a potential threat from Iran's Islamic revolution.

Iran imposes tough rules on weddings

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have imposed strict new regulations on weddings in the southern city of Shiraz to ensure they conform with Islamic principles, a newspaper said Wednesday. The families of the bride and groom now have to submit a copy of the wedding invitations and inform police of ceremonies, a police statement said reported by the daily Abrar. Women and girls as young as nine will have to be fully covered in line with Islamic principles, and salons and banquet rooms will have to be segregated by sex. Only waiters of the same sex can serve female or male guests. The statement added "unauthorised music, bands and singers" were banned from wedding parties and men were forbidden from photographing women or vice versa. The regulations were announced at the end of the Shiite Muslim mourning months of Moharam

Moderate tremorshakes southern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) - A moderate earthquake shook Iran's southern province of Hormzgan Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The Islamic Republic News Agency said the tremor occurred at 6:53 a.m. (0323 GMT). registering a preliminary magni-tude of 4.6, according to Tehran University's geophysics institute. The epicentre of the quake was 850 kilometres southeast of Tehran, said IRNA, monitored in Cyprus. Iran is acutely earthquake prone and reports tremors in various parts of the country almost every week. An earthquake of magnitude 4 can cause moderate damage.

Iran seizes almost six tonnes of opium

TEHRAN (AFP) - Police seized 5.8 tonnes of opium in a raid on drug traffickers in southeastern Iran near the Pakistani border this week, police chief Reza Seifollahi said. Mr. Seifollahi, quoted by Tehran Radio, said the drugs were seized in the Mir-Javeh region of Sistan Baluchestan province. He gave no specific date or provide information on the circumstances in which the opium was seized. Mr. Seifollahi added that 64 "drug traffickers and bandits" had been killed in clashes with police and another 215 been arrested in southeastern Iran since March. And 2,775 smugglers were arrested in a crackdown on contraband in regions in southern Iran, bordering the Gulf. during the same period, he said. Authorities seized 55 tonnes of various drugs in four months up to July 21, a 10 per cent leap on the same period in 1994, according to official figures. Drug trafficking and consumption are strictly banned in Iran under a law passed in 1989 laying down the death penalty for any person found with more than 30 grammes of heroin or more than five kilogrammes of

Pakistan rejects Afghan proposal

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan Wednesday rejected an Afghan proposal to station U.N. observers along their common border to investigate allegations that foreignmade arms were being smuggled into war-ravaged Afghanistan. "If any weapons are coming from Pakistan, they (the Afghans) can detect them on their side of the crossing points," a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said here. He added that currently there were more arms in Afghanistan than in Pakistan. Masood Khalili, a special envoy of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, said at a news conference here Monday that international monitors should be posted to probe the smuggling claims. Mr. Khalili urged the United Nations and the 51-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to appoint observers and devise other mechanisms of curbing the flow of foreign weapons into Afghanistan. Mr. Khalili has blamed neighbouring Uzbekistan for supporting Mr. Rabbani's rival, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who is trying to topple the president. Mr. Khalili also denied as "baseless" reports that Mr. Rabbani was receiving military assistance from India. The spokesman said the ousted communist regime in Kabul agreed that an ongoing holy war could be controlled if monitors were positioned between the Pakistan and Afghanistan borders.

Kaddoumi: **Autonomy** stumbling

TUNIS (AP) — The three-month-old Palestinian autonomy under Yasser Arafat in Gaza and Jericho is stumbling, a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said Wednesday, pre-dicting a flareup in Palestinian resistance against Israel.

Farouk Kaddoumi, a PLO Executive Committee member and the organisation's foreign affairs spokesman, blamed the "failure" of the embryonic Palestinian selfrule on PLO-Israeli peace agreements, which he described as "full of shortcom-

"Every day (that passes) proves that the peace process s stumbling... and if these shortcomings continue the process will fail," Mr. Kaddoumi said Wednesday. The only way to achieve a

lasting peace between the Palestinians and Isreal and "success" of Palestinian selfrule, he said, is through "a full Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian occupied territor-

"Therefore, it's imperative that the struggle should continue and the uprising go on until Israel pulls out its last soldier from the Palestinian territories," he said.

Asked about the possibility of a flareup on the six-yearold Palestinian uprising, which Mr. Arafat agreed to end under his Sept. 13 peace accord with Israel, Mr. Kadcoumi said:

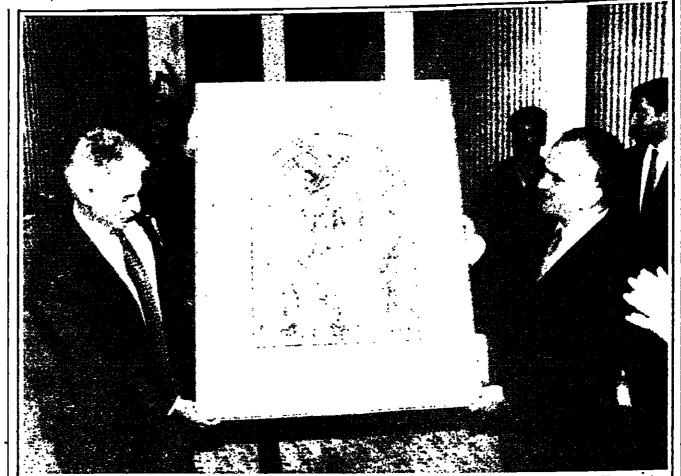
"As long as there is one Israeli soldier, our people have the right to continue their resistance."

But he also blamed the Palestinian National Authority for not doing enough to set up national institutions since it took over power in the territories on May 12.

Mr. Kaddoumi was speaking to the Associated Press in his headquarters here after two days of discussions with other senior PLO leaders "on challenges faced by the Palestinian authority" in Gaza and Jericho.

Seven members of the decision-making Central Committee of the PLO mainstream Fatch group attended the previously unannounced meetings here. Sources close to the meet-

ings said the leaders have come out with a conclusion that the PLO hit hard by a severe financial crisis and tbreatened by a political eclipse, needs to be reinvigo-



SYMBOLIC GIFT: Richard Pearlstone, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, 48 Wednesday presents a lithograph depicting the Asher, one of 12 ancient Jewish

tribes, to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at a

Algeria identifies mastermind of attack; Paris presses sweep

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security officials Wednesday named the man benind an attack in Algiers that killed five French nationals on Aug. 3 as Djamei Zitouni, head of an armed

The attack was claimed by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the armed fundamentalist groups. Mr. Zitouni, 26, a member

of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), heads a group which has carried out attacks mainly in the Birkhadem region near the Algerian capital.

He is suspected of killing French nationals Roger-Michel Drouaire, a businessman, and his son Pascal Valery at Birkhadem in March, and two residents of the former Yugoslavia at Ben Aknoun, near Birkhadem,

on July 11. The two Frenchmen were discovered in their villa with their throats slit. The Yugostwo businessmen of an Algerian company in a restaurant of the Ben Akhnoun zoo. Informed sources said Zitouni headed a GIA "death squad."

In Paris, six suspected Islamic fundamentalists were arrested Wednesday and sent to a disused army barracks in Folembray bringing to 23 the number of suspects being held in the northeastern French town, police said.

Last week 17 suspected Algerian fundamentalists were interned in Folembray. Their arrest followed the attack in Algiers.

The six arrested Wednesday were named as Abderamane Madani, Boualem Chibani, Azzedine Cefouane, Mohammed Doumi, Said Magri and Larbi Kechat.

Four of the six were at the barracks Wednesday afternoon, while the other two were on their way, the police

The 17 suspects arrested last week have all been served with deportation they will have to use their own initiative to find a coun-

try willing to take them.

If they cannot do this, Paris has said they will be returned to Algeria. The 17 claim their lives will be in danger if they reenter their homeland.

On Saturday the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed wing of the FIS threatened France with reprisals if the Folembray 17 vere "not freed immediate-

The FIS was poised to sweep to power in Algeria when the army stepped in to cancel the second round of elections in January 1992. The party has sinced been outlawed.

France's hardline interior minister pledged Wednesday to pursue a tough crackdown against suspected extremists, despite growing domestic opposition to the campaign. Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said in a radio interview that the government's 'security-creating operations" would continue to "send a signal to those who tality.

Thousands of people have

been subject to identity checks and 143 have been detained since police began a widescale security operation in Paris on Saturday.

Police arrested 34 more people Tuesday night in the French capital in a fourth night of security checks.

The government on Tues-

day also banned five Muslim publications which Mr. Pasqua said were spreading anti-Western and anti-French propaganda. Mr. Pasqua said Tuesdav

that "most of" the suspects held in Folembray were "active militants with direct links to FIS and other fundamentalist movements who for us, in the present circumstances, represent a threat." Mr. Pasqua said that the

"security operations" which were "not particularly aimed at Islamic fundamentalists" would "continue to be put in "You won't catch any fish if you don't go fishing," he

(Continued on page 7)

Mandela to seek apartheid reparations

for Namibia WINDHOEK (AFP) President Nelson Mandela said Wednesday he would try to repay Namibia for the apartheid wrongs committed against that country during 80 years of colonial rule by the former South African gov-

"We are concerned with assisting our comrades in Namibia," he told a press conference at the end of a two-day state visit to the country. "I will go back and raise the matter and discussions will follow."

But he added that his fledgling government faced a heavy burden in trying to redress the wrongs caused by successive apartheid governments interfering in states neighbouring South Africa.

"The issue must be addressed, but it must be addressed in a sensitive matter, taking into account that we are a developing country," he said.
"We should be able to seek apartheid reparation without having to be buried by our obligations as the successor to a government of oppression which denied the people of this country self-

expression." South Africa acquired Namibia from Germany at the end of World War I and ruled it until United Nationssupervised elections and independence in 1990.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma's South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) waged a 23-year guerrilla war with the South African Defence Force (SADF) before a ceasefire in 1988, which paved the way to the elections.

tradition treaty with Namibia was vital to deal with South

'Diana came to Martha's Vineyard for privacy

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WEST TISBURY, Mass (AP) - Britain's Princess Diana decided to spend a vaca-tion on Martha's Vineyard after watching other celebrities, including President Bill Clinton, enjoy the island in relative privacy, according to her host. "She knows it was one of the very few places in the world where she could be surrounded by nice people and it would be hard to be found by the press," said Lucia De Lima, wife of the Brazilian ambassador to the United States, who said the princess was her house guest. "Our intention is to have almost a normal life, to really enjoy this island as much as the other tourists do," Mrs. Lucia De Lima told the Vineyard Gazette newspaper. Martha's Vineyard is an island off the southern coast of Massachusetts. The Opal. a yacht that reportedly is at the princess' service, is dock-ed in the Vineyard Haven Marina. The crew told other yacht owners nearby that it was headed for Maine later in the day. Meanwhile, two employees of the Edgartown Yacht Club said they saw Princess Diana sailing Friday afternoon with former CBS News anchorman Walter Cronkite. Princess Diana reportedly is staying at Ambas-sador Paulo Tarso Flecha De Lima's rented 18th-century clapboard home while her two sons, William and Harry, vacation with their father, Prince Charles, in Greece. "She is very charmed by the Vineyard," Mrs. Lucia De Lima said. "She hopes to have a peaceful time here, because it is so beautiful. She knows you are very charming people, and you will be very protective toward her. You will respect her need for some privacy and a vaca-

Archaeologists unearth treasure inside Kremlin

MOSCOW (AP)

Archeologists excavating inside the Kremlin walls have uncovered a treasure in silver coms and paper money from the 16th and 17th centuries, reported. The recent digging has turned up artifacts dating to the 12th century, when the Kremlin was erected on the banks of the Moscow River. The findings include hundreds of objects, including ceramic fragments and medieval utensils, the report said. The money was found near the former Senate building, an 18th-century structure presently being restored. The money was believed to be buried in 1612 when the Kremlin, then occupied by Polish invaders, was under siege. The treasure consists of an undetermined number of silver coins and about 3,500 pieces of paper money, ITAR-TASS reported in a brief dispatch that gave few details. The money was uncovered at the end of July, but the findings were not announced until Tuesday, ITAR-TASS said, adding that additional details would be released soon. Though best-known as the seat of the Soviet and Russian governments, the Kremlin also contains one of Russia's premier museums, The Armoury, which includes thousands of priceless artifacts from the czarist era.

NASA robot dropped back into volcano

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) A remote-controlled robot remained in an active volcano's crater Tuesday after efforts for a helicopter rescue were aborted by a broken tether, the Alaska National Guard said. Dante II, the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) robot posted on the 11,070-foot (3,374 metres) Mount Spurr, tumbled back into the crater that it has explored since July 29, in a rehearsal for space missions, officials said. "It appears that they dropped the robot," said Sergeant Bruce Gazaway of the Alaska National Guard. "Unfortunately, it fell back into the volcano, so it makes it a little more difficult to retrieve." Further helicopter rescue attempts are likely to be requested by NASA, he said. "I'm sure they still want the robot.'

Iraqi official to visit Turkey for talks on pipeline Monday for Baghdad to dest a 50-camera network that has U.N. weapons inspectors

ANKARA (Agencies) — A senior Iraqi di<u>pl</u>omat wili visit Ankara on Thursday to discuss the trans-Turkey pipeline which has been closed since the United Nations embargoed Iraq's oil exports in 1990.

Turkey has been seeking Security Council authorities for months to pump Iraqi oil trapped in the pipeline.

Although the pipeline needs to be drained to pre-

vent damage, Baghdad has not been able to agree with the U.N. about what to do with food and medicine Iraq would get to return for the The U.N., which imposed

trade sanction on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, wants to monitor distribution of the badly needed supplies and to make sure a portion goes to Kurdish-controlled

northern Iraq.
Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said that Riyadh Al Qaysi, under-

secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, will meet his Turkish counterpart Ozdem Sanberek the discuss the pipeline. He gave no further de-

Mr. Sanberk was in Baghdad in June to discuss the matter with Mr. Qaysi and Deputy Prime Minister Tareq

The 985-kilometres pipeline runs from Kirkuk in northern Iraq to Turkey's Yumurtalik terminal on the Mediterranean.

British U.N. envoy David Hannay said on Monday most problems concerning a Security Council resolution allowing the operation were now solved and he expected action soon. Oil officials say unless a

U.N. resolution is passed soon, early winter in the region may delay the work until spring.

U.N. resumes work After a brief summer hall.

have resumed their missions in Iraq to prepare for the September launching of a long-term monitoring programme of the country's military programmes.

Cynthia Valenzuela, the Bahrain-based regional officfor Baghdad.

spend two weeks in Iraq inweapons.

related to the programme

Ms. Valenzuela said that a four-man team led by an American, Sam Liburdi, left

been installed to monitor Ira-

er in charge of the inspectors, said that a 12-member team of U.N. chemical weapons experts left early Wednesday The team, led by Dutchman Cees Wolterbeek, will

specting sites that may be used for future manufacture of the prohibited chemical They will also solicit fresh information from the Iraqis

that has been destroyed by inspectors of the U.N. Special Commission since the Gulf War ceasefire.

qi missile manufacturing, testing and operating sites. After 1991 Gulf war, the U.N. Security Council demanded the destruction of Iraq's modear, chemical and biological weapons programmes. It also prohibited Baghdad from manufacturing

long-range missiles. On Friday, a team of inspectors, led by David Kelly, a Briton, will fly to Baghdad to pursue preparations for monitoring biological weapons sites, Ms. Valenzuela said.

"July and August are usually slower, but the regular flow is picking up," she said. "The target for operat-ing the Baghdad monitoring and verification centre is in the first half of September." The centre will be officially

launched by commission chairman, Swedish disarmament expert Rolf Ekens.

Pakistan demands F-16s or down payment successfully tried to persuade

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan demanded Wednesday that the United States return some \$650 million paid by Islamabad to purchase 38 F-16 fighter jets after a senior U.S. diplomat was quoted as saying the weapons sale was "We believe Lockheed (F-

16 manufacturer) and the U.S. are under contractual agreement to deliver the aircraft," a Foreign Office spokesman said in reaction to the reported comments by Frank Wisner, the U.S. ambassador to India.

"If the U.S. is convinced it cannot deliver the aircraft because of its own legislative impediments, it should take action forthwith to return the money," he said. Mr. Wisner told the Times

of India in an interview pub-

lished Tuesday that the Un-

ited States would not supply

the F-16s to Pakistan because

of Islamabad's failure to offer

sufficient guarantees that it is

not developing nuclear arms.

The Pakistani spokesman said that the U.S. administration had sought to remove restrictions on arms sales to Pakistan imposed under the so-called Pressler Amendment barring military sales to countries seeking nuclear But, under the pressure of certain lobbies this attempt

was given up," he said. The spokesman said Pakistan would make alternate arrangements to procure sophisticated aircraft for its air defence. Pakistan and the United

States signed an agreement in 1989 for the supply of some 70 F-16s, multi-role jet fight-The United States, invoking the Pressier law, cut off

economic and military aid to

Pakistan in 1990 because of

suspicions that Islamabad's

nuclear programme was weapon-oriented. During a visit here in April, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott un-

Pakistan to accept a verifiable cap on its nuclear prog-ramme in exchange for deliv-ery of the F-16s. The spokesman said the embargo had been "eroding"

Pakistan's conventional defence capability while it failed to further the objective of non-proliferation in South Asia. Islamabad has often stressed that it would sign the

nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if India agreed to do the same. A State Department spokesman said Tuesday the,

U.S. had no plans to allow the delivery of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan anytime "While this offer is still on the table and we continue to

explore it with Pakistani authorities, as practical matter we are unlikely to reach agreement in the immediate future," David Johnson said at a bricfing.

He noted that Washington had agreed several months ago to release the F-16s to Pakistan if Pakistan verifiably capped production of weapons-grade radioactive material that could be used to make a nuclear bomb.

say where the difficulty lay and turned aside questions on whether Pakistan would get its money back.

He said any release of the

generally opposed delivery of the jets.

We plan to continue to work with India and Pakistan toward our goal of capping over time, reducing and eventually eliminating weapons of mass destruction in South Asia," he said.

Mr. Johnson declined to planes was subject to approval from congress, which has

"We remain determined to do what we can to help reduce tensions and to promote our nonproliferation objectives in South Asia," Mr. Johnson said,

> Mr. Mandela said an ex-Africans who had been involved in apartheid crimes against Namibians.



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